

Iraq denounces U.S. 'interference in internal affairs'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq on Tuesday derided a U.S. envoy's support for the ouster of President Saddam Hussein as "interference in the country's internal affairs." The Iraqi leader said the U.S. was "interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq and its people are stronger than it is at any time before," added Nizar Hamdoun, under-secretary at the foreign ministry, in a dispatch by the official Iraqi news agency. Mr. Hamdoun was reacting to comments made Tuesday by Secretary of State James Baker, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. "We want to see Saddam Hussein out of power," Mr. Djerjehian told a news conference. "As President Bush made very clear, we will maintain sanctions on Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein is in power." He was reiterating longstanding U.S. policy. British Prime Minister John Major backs the American stand. Mr. Hamdoun said the United States was insisting on "open intervention in Iraq's internal affairs and those of many Arab countries in the name of U.S. interests." He called on Washington to "respect the people's will for choosing their systems and ways of life, and to stop intervening in other countries' internal affairs."



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Israeli court hears appeal against expulsion

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The supreme court on Tuesday began hearing an appeal against deportation orders by four Palestinians whose lawyers argued the men should be allowed to see secret evidence in the case. "Our clients should be able to relate to the charges against them," said defense attorney Leah Tsemel. An army official said after the hearing that secrecy is necessary to protect informants and noted that the high court judges have access to all evidence. The four West Bank residents are among 12 Palestinians ordered expelled Jan. 2 following the killing of four Israelis in the occupied territories.

Ramsey Clark details U.S. war crimes

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — An Iraqi newspaper reported Tuesday that former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark has compiled a report on American war crimes during the Gulf war. Mr. Clark said his report would be submitted to the United Nations for a Feb. 29 debate, said Al Thawra, the organ of Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party. "My report will contain evidence that will prove U.S. violation of the Geneva pact," Mr. Clark reportedly said Monday at an Arab jurists union seminar in Baghdad.

Prosecutor wounded in attack

BURSA, Turkey (AP) — Gunmen shot and wounded a prosecutor and killed his driver and a policeman on Tuesday in this northwestern town, the Anatolia news agency said. Two other policemen and a passerby were also reported injured. The attackers, who were waiting at an intersection, sprayed prosecutor Nural Ucarum's official car with bullets when it stopped at a traffic light, Anatolia said. Mr. Ucarum was wounded in the chest and leg, the agency said. Quoting witnesses, it said the attackers escaped. Anatolia didn't say how many assailants were there.

Pilots who defected from Ukraine won't be forced to return

MOSCOW (AP) — The pilots who defected to Russia with six SU-24 fighter bombers won't be forced to return to Ukraine, although negotiations will take place over the fate of the planes, a top military official said Tuesday. Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the military commander of the Commonwealth of Independent States, also told reporters in a wide-ranging news conference that he was on good terms with Ukraine's president.

7 time-bombs explode in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Seven time-bombs exploded in Tokyo and surrounding areas early Tuesday but no one appeared to be hurt, a police spokesman said. It was not immediately known who planted the bombs, which caused damage including broken windows, the spokesman said. Kyodo news service said the blasts may have been the work of extremists opposed to the building of a second runway at Narita international airport outside Tokyo. Among the targets were homes of local government officials, Narita, a former transport ministry official and a managing director of All Nippon Airways, Kyodo said.

Fire destroys Expo pavilion

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — A fire destroyed the second-largest pavilion of the Expo '92 Tuesday and organizers said they did not plan to rebuild it. The fast-moving fire broke out at around 2 p.m. (1900 GMT) as workers were putting the finish touches on the building. No injuries were reported. "My impression is that this pavilion is totally ruined," said Jacinto Pelton, chief executive of the world exposition. "I won't deny this is a great setback but there will be many other things for people to see."

Palestinians delay departure to Washington, await PLO decision

AMMAN (Agencies) — A chief adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks said Tuesday the PLO would decide whether the delegates would go to Washington for the next round of negotiations with Israel. The adviser, Faisal Hussein, said after a meeting with PLO officials in Jordan that Israel was trying to obstruct the talks. He said the Palestinians had delayed their departure to Amman en route to Washington from the occupied territories pending a decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. His remarks underscored the influence the PLO has over the negotiators, even though it has been physically excluded from the peace process at Israel's insistence. "There are lots of Israeli activities, starting from settling Jews in the occupied territories and arresting Palestinians including people from our delegation, confiscating Palestinian lands, and bombing camps in Lebanon, all of these things are creating obstacles which we find it impossible to overcome," Mr. Hussein said. "We're trying to figure out a way to overcome these difficulties, and we, the Palestinian delegation, believe that the only way is to force Israel to stop doing all that. One way is to suspend the departure of the Palestinian delegation to Amman but not to Washington, as it was inaccurately reported from Jerusalem," Mr. Hussein said. Earlier reports from Jerusalem said the Palestinians had decided to postpone their trip to Washington to attend the talks to resume Monday, but Mr. Hussein said the decision had not gone that far. "The final word is for our Palestinian leadership," he said, referring to the PLO. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber denounced Israel's arrest of two Palestinian delegates and said the action could impede the Middle East peace drive (see box). Mr. Hussein urged the Israelis to reverse their arrest decision. He said the arrests "were a violation of the peace process."

Egypt says Syria ready for peace with Israel

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said he believes Syria will be ready to make a land-for-peace deal with Israel if the Jewish state reaches agreement with the Palestinians on interim self-rule in the occupied territories.

"As long as the Israelis and the Palestinians agree on a meaningful autonomy system... there is nothing that should prevent Syria from concluding an acceptable bilateral agreement with the Israelis that would provide for the full withdrawal of the Israelis," Mr. Moussa said in an interview with Reuters on Monday.

Mr. Moussa, speaking in his office in a 19th century Cairo villa, said he did not believe the latest spate of violence in Israel and Lebanon would disrupt a round of peace talks set for Feb. 24 in Washington. He said previous rounds of talks had gone ahead despite killings and attacks. Mr. Moussa added that the reason Syria had not yet proposed a deal was that "Israel has not uttered the words 'land for peace.'"

In Damascus, Syrian officials were not available to comment on Mr. Moussa's remarks. Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation began peace talks with Israel last October but so far they have made little progress.



Amr Moussa

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline government has vowed not to give up territories occupied in the Middle East war in 1967, including the strategic Golan Heights occupied from Syria.

Diplomats say the Syrian-Israeli discussions have been particularly acrimonious. But Mr. Moussa's comments suggested Syria was willing to reach an agreement with Israel without waiting for a final settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Mr. Moussa said Syria might join separate multilateral talks on regional issues such as water rights and arms control if Israel began discussing territorial compromise in Washington.

Jordan condemns arrest

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday strongly condemned the arrest by the Israeli occupation authorities of two members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. In a statement to Petra, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said the arrest of Jamal Al Shobaki and Mohammad Al Hourani was an oppressive measure. He added that Jordan, which provides an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, viewed the incident as an Israeli attempt aimed at obstructing the peace process and "prejudicing the attainment of any progress in the talks."

said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

PLO officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they believed the Palestinian delegation would go to Washington.

Ehud Gol, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said he viewed the Palestinian delegation's move as a pressure tactic.

"I don't think we should take it too seriously. We are going to attend the talks in Washington," he said, "and we expect all the other parties to be there as well."

Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are also negotiating with Israel.

A ranking PLO delegation was in Syria Tuesday to coordinate positions ahead of the next round of peace talks in Washington.

The delegation arrived Monday night. It was headed by the PLO's "foreign minister,"

Farouq Qaddoumi, and comprised senior executive committee members Yasser Abed-Rabbo and Suleiman Najjab.

Mr. Hussein, although an adviser to the Palestinian delegation, is not a negotiator. He is from east Jerusalem and is known to be close to the PLO.

Israel refused to negotiate with the PLO, saying it is a terrorist organization. It also would not agree to meeting Palestinians from east Jerusalem because it has annexed that part of the holy city and wanted nothing to dispute its claims.

The Palestinians demanded that the United States put pressure on Israel to release the arrested delegates and also stop what they described as harassment of their negotiators.

(Continued on page 5)

Fighting intensifies in south Lebanon requests urgent Security Council meeting

Combined agency dispatches

LEBANON'S U.N. ambassador said Tuesday that his government has requested an urgent Security Council meeting to protest Israel's assassination of a Muslim cleric and raids on two villages. "This will be the first time in many years we have requested an emergency meeting," said Ambassador Khalil Makk: vi, Lebanon's permanent U.N. representative.

A meeting had not yet been scheduled.

The Lebanese envoy said in a telephone interview that he requested a meeting in a letter Monday "because of the continuous Israeli aggression against my country and its continuous occupation of part of southern Lebanon."

In the past, he said, Lebanon has lodged many protests, but has not requested a council session. Arab diplomats said they hoped the council would adopt a resolution condemning Israel's action.

Mr. Makkawi said the president of the Security Council, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, would hold informal consultations on the request. Letters

were sent to Mr. Pickering and to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Lebanese government protested the killing by Israel of Sheikh Abbas Musawi, his wife, son and at least four bodyguards on Monday in southern Lebanon. It also protested Israeli raids on two villages in which the victims included women and children.

The village raids came in apparent retaliation for the hacking of 40 slammed around settlements in northern Israel and 25 in the security zone.

Some 1,000 Israeli troops and 3,000 members of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) patrol the zone, which Israel carved out in 1985 to protect its borders from guerrilla attacks.

Israeli troops and the SLA lobbed some 165 heavy artillery shells into southern villages held by Hizbollah, the most active group against Israeli troops in Lebanon.

Israeli gunboats strafed the edge of the seaside Palestinian refugees camp of Rashidiyeh overnight, the security sources

Security sources, said Israeli

gunners in hills overlooking the security zone fired their artillery batteries on the villages of Zawtar Al Gharbiyeh, Jibsheet and Braasheet, killing a five-year-old boy and wounding five civilians.

The Israeli shelling was in apparent retaliation for rocket attacks by Hizbollah earlier on Tuesday.

The guerrillas, intent on avenging the killing of Sheikh Musawi, fired 65 Katyusha rockets of which 40 slammed around settlements in northern Israel and 25 in the security zone.

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(Continued on page 5)

Libyan judge rejects extradition request; Egypt backs West

LONDON (Agencies) — A Libyan judge on Tuesday rejected U.S. and British demands for the extradition of two Libyans charged in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in 1988, BBC television reported.

The two alleged Libyan security officers were taken before the supreme court in Tripoli but did not face any charges under Libyan law, according to the British Broadcasting Corp. report.

The report said the two men did not respond to reporters when asked in English and Arabic if they were guilty of the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The Daily Mail reported Tuesday that the two men denied any role in the bombing, which killed 270 people. They predicted in an interview that they would be cleared by the Libyan court, the newspaper said.

The Mail said the men also insisted they were employees of Libya's airline and not intelligence agents.

The U.N. Security Council demanded last month that Libya extradite the men to answer the American and British charges. The council also demanded four other Libyans be turned over to France to face charges they blew up a French UTA flight over Africa in 1989, killing 170 people. The West has threatened to

impose economic sanctions if Libya defies the resolution.

Libya invited Western journalists to Tripoli for what it said would be a court hearing Tuesday in the flight 103 case.

But the BBC said the judge held a news conference rather than a hearing.

The judge said the extradition request was legally invalid because Libyan authorities had not been provided with evidence gathered in the case, the BBC said.

Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi has denied the two men are government agents or were involved in the bombing. He has vowed not to hand them over to the United States or Britain but has proposed a trial before an international body such as the World Court at the Hague, Netherlands.

British lawyer Stephen Mitchell, representing the two Libyans, told the BBC: "It's perfectly obvious the Western powers believe that any trial here would be fixed. Equally the Libyans think that any trial in the West would not be fair."

"I don't know why my name has been chosen. Where in my history am I a dangerous man? I am a normal brought up in a normal family," the Mail quoted Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, 35, as saying.

Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi, 39, was quoted as saying: "I am not guilty. The days will prove that."

Foreign journalists invited to Tripoli to attend the public hearing were instead only shown the two suspects and prohibited from asking them any questions.

Judge Ahmad Al Tahir Al Zawi, who is heading the Libyan investigation, told reporters there would be no hearing.

"According to Libyan law, it is forbidden to make an investigation public," he said.

The judge insisted that under Libyan law the two suspects could not under any circumstance be surrendered for trial outside Libya.

"If convicted in a Libyan court and it is proven they blew up the airplane, with the intention of killing those aboard, the penalty of the Libyan court is absolutely severe. It is death," Mr. Al Zawi said.

Both suspects were presented to reporters briefly after the news conference. They identified themselves and although forbidden to answer questions, they were given a chance to make a statement. Only Al Megrahi spoke.

"I just want to say that we are not guilty," he said in English. The United States and Britain

have not ruled out military action to force Tripoli to comply with the demands.

"Crimes cannot be punished by aggression," said Mr. Al Zawi, who criticized the United States and Britain for making demands he said exceeded international law while not providing evidence.

In Cairo, Egypt's foreign minister said the suspects should be prosecuted — the first time an Egyptian official has publicly backed Western demands for their trial.

"The important thing is to put those people on trial, to investigate them and to try them," Amr Musa told Reuters in an interview late on Monday.

"If the fact remains that their trial in Libya would not be acceptable, so we'll have to find something else," he said.

"We believe that the Americans and British are right in demanding justice in this case of Lockerbie and that the accused should be investigated and tried. All those who are responsible for it should be punished."

Egypt has been working behind the scenes to resolve the dispute which it feared could lead to a Western military strike on Libya. "There was some nervousness in this area about the possibility of military action," Mr. Musa said, adding he hoped that possibility had been averted.

Iran, U.S. woo Muslim republics

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — Iran on Tuesday accused Washington of laying the groundwork for a reward-punishment policy to forestall close ties between the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union and Iran.

State-run Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, said in a commentary that "the precondition for implementation of this policy is the direct political and economic presence of the United States in these countries through establishment of missions."

It noted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's trip to the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the establishment of U.S. missions in the Muslim republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

On his return to Washington, Mr. Baker is expected to advise also opening missions in the Muslim republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Washington's "speedy action on this issue demonstrates the serious worry of the United States about trends in the region, and the strengthening of Muslim

tendencies," the radio said. The radio said Washington intended to pressure republics which moved too close to Iran, and reward those that stayed away.

On his tour, Mr. Baker has called for the need to curb Iran's influence in the region.

"The U.S. is concerned in a number of ways about some of the activities of the government of Iran" in the region, Mr. Baker said on a visit to Azerbaijan last week.

The Iranians have taken steps towards the creation of what they call "Islamic common market" with the Muslim republics.

All of the Muslim republics, except Kazakhstan, have been granted membership in the Economic Cooperation Organisation, founded in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

Iran also has signed a big oil agreement with Turkmenistan. Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Azagadeh, met in Tehran Monday with a delegation from Tajikistan, which called for Iranian help in expanding the republic's oil and gas industries.

All the cash-strapped republics need large investments and technology to prop up their ailing industrial sectors. Neither Iran, Pakistan or Turkey are in positions to provide cash or advanced technology to the republics.

The United States, on the other hand, could help meet the republics' urgent needs.

The radio commentary said that a massive U.S. presence in the republics would give Washington access to a wealth of resources, including oil and gas.

It said it would also "create a kind of strategic balance against the Islamic revolution on one side, and the future influence of a United Europe on the other."

"We are part of a larger ideological family," Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said at the close of the two-day ECO summit in Tehran Monday.

"Our guide and leader is the Koran," he declared.

The summit ended with a communique welcoming the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as new members.

Turkey's President Turgut Ozal, whose country's secular tradition contrasts sharply with the Islamic fundamentalism of Iran, used the summit to urge the ECO to develop in line with liberal market-oriented policies.

"All our countries now believe in the advantages of the free market economy," Mr. Ozal said, adding a plea for religious tolerance.

Mr. Ozal told a Monday news conference that the idea of fierce competition between Iran and Turkey for influence in the Muslim countries of the former Soviet Union was exaggerated.

ECO leaders signed an agreement to cut tariffs on listed goods by 10 per cent and pledged efforts to eliminate all tariffs and non-tariff barriers, together with subsidies on all exports.

id they wanted to develop in transport, communication, energy, industry and agriculture, but took no specific decisions.

"If we continue seriously in our cooperation we can be an important weight in the global economy," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Najibullah warns of terrorism, drugs if rebels seize power

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — President Najibullah said Tuesday that his nation could become a haven for terrorists and drug traffickers if Muslim fundamentalist rebels defy U.N. peace efforts and seize power.

Mr. Najibullah has tried to portray himself as the best guarantee for the country's orderly transition to democracy after 13 years of war against the Mujahedeen guerrillas, who until recently were backed by the United States.

"The question is whether we are seeking merely a settlement or peace. Any settlement must guarantee peace," the 44-year-old president said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Mr. Najibullah supports the U.N. plan to install a transitional government that could oversee elections. The rebels have not indicated whether they will hold talks with his government.

The president suggested Afghanistan would become "a centre for world terrorism" and drug trafficking if hardline guerrilla factions take control.

Mr. Najibullah, who rose to

power with Soviet acquiescence in May 1986, was formerly head of the secret police.

On Jan. 1, the United States ended its backing for the Mujahedeen, or Islamic holy warriors, and Moscow stopped supplying arms to Mr. Najibullah's government.

The Red Army entered Afghanistan in 1979 to support the communist regime and later battled the Mujahedeen. Soviet forces pulled out in 1989.

Some fundamentalist guerrilla groups have been funded by Arab governments. According to the United Nations, Afghanistan last year surpassed Burma as the world's largest producer of opium, which is processed into heroin. Most of the opium is grown in areas controlled by the fundamentalist guerrillas.

Mr. Najibullah also said he hoped the United States would reopen its embassy in Kabul. Washington shut the compound in January 1989, citing security concerns.

"If the Mujahedeen can go to Moscow for talks, why can't I go to Washington? Why can't the



Najibullah

Americans reopen their embassy? Whose fault is it?" he asked.

A State Department report last month charged the Muslim rebels and Mr. Najibullah's government with extensive human rights violations, including tortures and executions.

Suleiman Laeq, a senior official in the ruling Homeland Party, is currently in the United States to lecture at Columbia University in New York.

The trip is not considered an official visit, but government sources said Mr. Laeq might meet with some American officials.

Libya reports solidarity on eve of suspects' hearing, accused men quoted as saying they are innocent

ROME (AP) — Libya's official news agency Monday reported Arab solidarity on the eve of what Tripoli promises will be an open court hearing about the two Libyans wanted in the West for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

In an apparent effort to win attention for its own version of the bombing investigation, the government invited Western journalists to attend the session Tuesday.

Col. Moammar Qadhafi has denied U.S. British allegations that the two suspects are intelligence agents and vowed that Libya will never hand them over to the West.

The bombing of the Jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, killed 270 people.

The move to hold a public hearing was announced last week as momentum reportedly grew for a U.N.-led embargo against arms sales and air travel to Libya.

Last month, in an unanimous vote, the U.N. Security Council urged Tripoli to surrender the suspects.

JANA, Libya's official news

agency, reported the latest messages of solidarity for Tripoli's stance in the case.

It said parliamentarians from Yemen, visiting Libya, denounced "the Security Council's unjust Resolution 731."

JANA also carried assertions made Saturday by a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that a secret investigation in the bombing showed "Middle East parties (but) not Libya" were involved.

Libya asserts that a Libyan supreme court justice — who is to conduct Tuesday's session — has been looking into the allegations in the Western indictments. Libya has offered to have the two men tried by an international body such as the World Court in The Hague.

France wants four Libyan officials — including Col. Qadhafi's brother-in-law — for another terrorist airplane bombing, that of a French UTA flight over Africa in 1989 that killed 170 people.

Col. Qadhafi has claimed in an interview that the four were willing to face charges in France. Meanwhile, the Daily Mail

newspaper on Tuesday quoted the two Libyans indicted in the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing as saying in an interview that they are innocent.

Daily Mail reporter Paul Henderson said he interviewed the two on Sunday in their homes in the Libyan capital with the help of Libyan authorities.

He quoted Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, 35, as saying when asked if he was responsible for the bombing over Lockerbie on Dec. 21, 1988: "Never ever."

He said he added: "I don't know why my name has been chosen. Where in my history am I a danger man? I am a normal person brought up in a normal family."

Mr. Henderson quoted Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi, 39, as saying: "I am not guilty. The days will prove that."

"I want to send this message to the British people, the American people and the international community. One day I will be found not guilty. I am sorry for the people of Lockerbie and one day you will see that."

Mr. Henderson said when he



Muammar Qadhafi

asked them if they would travel to the West to prove their innocence before a court they did not reply directly but later told him several times that they had been advised they should be dealt with within the Libyan legal system.

Both men have been identified in Western news reports as Libyan intelligence agents but Mr. Henderson said that in the inter-

views they both denied ever having been in the Libyan intelligence service.

The United States and Britain have demanded that Libya extradite them to face prosecution for the bombing, which destroyed the New York-bound jetliner in midair, killing all 259 people aboard and 11 others on the ground.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Hogg in Kuwait for Gulf security talks

KUWAIT (R) — British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg arrived in Kuwait on Monday for talks on Gulf security and strengthening defence ties with the emirate. The Kuwaiti news agency (KUNA) quoted Mr. Hogg as saying on arrival for a two-day visit that relations between Britain and Kuwait were excellent. He said he would discuss the Kuwaiti officials "certain issues related to these ties." Mr. Hogg will also review details of a security accord signed with Kuwait a week ago "with the aim of consolidating the agreement's role." He added that he would seek Kuwait's views on any Iranian role in Gulf security. A memorandum of understanding between Britain and Kuwait was signed in London last Tuesday. The British defence ministry said at the time the accord opened the way for detailed agreements on equipment sales, the supply of information to Kuwait by British military experts and combined training and exercises by their forces. Kuwait signed a similar agreement with the United States last year and plans one with France. Mr. Hogg will go to Saudi Arabia after Kuwait for a similar visit.

Iceland Premier arrives in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The prime minister of Iceland arrived in Israel Monday on the first official visit by a premier of that small North Atlantic country to the Jewish state. David Oddsson is being hosted by his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Shamir. Mr. Oddsson will also meet with President Chaim Herzog. Labour Party leader Shimon Peres and other Israeli leaders during his three-day visit. Upon arrival Mr. Oddsson urged Israel and its Arab neighbours to continue their peace making efforts, begun last November in Madrid, Spain. "As a representative of a small Western country, it is my opinion that we must continue along the path we began in Madrid. The most important thing is to ensure Israel's security," Mr. Oddsson said. He then was driven to Jerusalem where the streets of the capital were lined with the blue and red flag of Israel.

Iran sends envoy to S. Arabia

RIYADH, SAUDIA ARABIA (AP) — Mohammad Ali Hadi Najavabadi arrived Monday to assume his post as the first Iranian ambassador to Riyadh after the restoration of diplomatic ties in March 1991. Mr. Najavabadi was formerly ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia ruptured ties with the Islamic republic in March 1988, at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, when it accused the Tehran leaders of terrorism. Relations improved after the Gulf war, when Iran rejected the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Iranian embassy had been manned by a charge d'affaires since the restoration of the ties a year ago.

Egyptian paper denounces Israeli raids

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian mass-circulation daily said on Tuesday that Israel's raids on Southern Lebanon recalled the "terrorist" past of some of its leaders and linked soldiers who carried out the attacks to "mad dogs." Israeli troops sped like mad dogs, shooting their arms indiscriminately. Al Akhbar newspaper said in an editorial. "It wasn't a battle between two armies but it was a one-sided massacre planned

by the brave leaders of Israel." Egypt has

remained officially silent on Sunday's helicopter attack in which Israel killed Hizbollah (Party of God) leader Abbas Musawi, his wife, six-year-old son and five bodyguards. Israel, apparently responding to the killing of three of its soldiers on Saturday, also launched night air raids on Palestinian targets in Lebanon killing four Lebanese civilians.

Moroccan groups criticise Algeria

RABAT (R) — Two Moroccan human rights groups denounced what they called the wave of repression and arrests in neighbouring Algeria in a statement published on Tuesday. The joint statement by the association and league of human rights was the first critical Moroccan comment on events in Algeria where a state of emergency has been declared after fatal clashes between security forces and Muslim fundamentalists. The two groups said the solution to Algeria's problems lay in "democratic dialogue, respect for individual and collective freedoms, and respect for the will of the majority." Algerians seeking news of their children and other people who have disappeared under the state of emergency are besieging the offices in the main human rights organisation, a human rights spokesman said in Algiers on Monday. Mohammad Bouafia, head of Algeria's five-man presidency, said on Sunday the authorities could be holding between 5,000 and 6,000 people in special detention camps set up under the state of emergency.

Pollution cuts down Iran's shrimp catch

NICOSIA (R) — Iran says pollution caused by the Gulf war has cut down its shrimp catch by 60 per cent but its caviar production from the Caspian Sea is rising. Millions of barrels of crude oil spilled into the Gulf during the U.S.-led allies' war to evict Iraq's occupation army from Kuwait a year ago. Rasul Lahijanian, head of the Iran's State Fisheries Organisation, was quoted by the Iranian News Agency IRNA as saying that because of the pollution Iran's shrimp catch was going to drop 60 per cent to 4,000 tonnes in the Iranian year of March 20. But in the Caspian Sea, 210 tonnes of caviar was expected to be produced in the current year and 300 tonnes next year, he added. He gave no figure for last year. Most of Iran's caviar is exported and sold in Europe and elsewhere. Mr. Lahijanian said the government planned to spend two billion rials (\$15 million) at the officially set floating exchange rates) to build seven fishing ports and other facilities along Iran's northern and southern coasts next year.

Pakistan bans opposition to 'Ideology'

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The parliament passed legislation banning opposition to the "ideology" of Pakistan, but the law leaves it up to the courts to define what that ideology is. Critics said the law is designed to camouflage censorship and political persecution. The amendment to the penal code was approved by the National Assembly Monday. The crime carries a maximum 10-year prison sentence. "Before you punish someone for being against the ideology of Pakistan, please define it so that people may know what they are being punished for," said Aitzaz Ahsan, a former interior minister, in the assembly's debate.

Regional grouping calls for cooperation with northern Cyprus

NICOSIA, CYPRUS (AP) — The Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), an eight-member Islamic trade alliance, on Monday called for cooperation with the breakaway Turkish republic in northern Cyprus, the Islamic republic news agency reported.

The call, contained in a final statement winding up two-days of meetings in Iran, was certain to anger the Greek Cypriot government as well as Athens. They have been resisting pressures by Ankara to bring international recognition of Turkish-occupied Northern Cyprus.

ECO was founded in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were granted membership earlier this month, and the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan joined Monday.

ECO "welcomed the recommendation of the council of deputies to allow the Turkish Muslim community in Cyprus to participate in the economic, cultural and technical activities of ECO without prejudice to the respective positions of the member states," the statement said.

It said "the modalities of their (Turkish Cypriots) participation will be worked out by the ECO Secretariat with the help of experts of the three founding member states."

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said ECO also backed "efforts for a final settlement of the question of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions."

Cyprus has been unofficially divided since Turkish troops invaded the northern 37 per cent of the island in 1974 to protect the Turkish Cypriots following an army coup by supporters of union with Greece.

In 1983, the Turkish Cypriots proclaimed their independent state which has been recognised only by Turkey.

U.S. official: Sanctions to remain in force

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A senior U.S. State Department official said Monday Washington believes Saddam Hussein's days are numbered, and reiterated that sanctions imposed on Iraq will not be lifted as long as the Iraqi leader is in power.

"I am stating what American policy is," Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, told a news conference.

"We want to see Saddam Hussein out of power. As President Bush made very clear, we will maintain sanctions on Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein is in power."

British Prime Minister John Major has backed Mr. Bush's stance.

Iraq has complained that this position reflected that the United Nations, which enforced the sanctions, was being manipulated by the United States and Britain, the main partners in Operation Desert Storm which liberated Kuwait in February 1991.

Mr. Djerejian is on a regional trip to coordinate with Gulf allies. Bahrain was the third stop of his trip.

He visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the weekend, and planned to also stop in Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

His trip followed reports from Washington that Mr. Bush had authorized an increase in covert operation to aid opponents of Saddam.

A conference of Iraqi opposition leaders was reported under way in Washington last week. Also, CIA Chief Robert Gates was recently in the region where he reportedly discussed the options available for toppling Saddam.

"We characterize the situation of Saddam Hussein's regime now as being brittle, something that is hard on the outside but easy to crack," Mr. Djerejian said. "We feel that his situation is deteriorating, not improving."

He said there were "signs" of eroding support amid worsening economic

hardships.

He said Saddam was "certainly not in control of major facets of sovereignty."

Washington wants an Iraqi government that is "at peace with its people in the first instance and that is willing to live in peace with all of its neighbours."

Mr. Djerejian rejected a question linking the apparent escalation of pressure on Saddam and Mr. Bush's reelection campaign. He insisted that the U.S. policy has been "very consistent" since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Mr. Djerejian, a former ambassador to Syria, deplored the "cycle of violence" in the Middle East. He mentioned specifically tension in southern Lebanon following the assassination of Sheikh Abbas Musawi, a Shiite Muslim leader, in Israeli raids Sunday.

"The real path out of the cycle of violence is exactly this peace process," he said, of the U.S.-arranged Middle East talks launched last October.

EC avoids condemning Algeria, offers economic carrot

LISBON (R) — The European Community on Monday urged the military-backed government in Algeria to live up to its commitments and respect personal freedoms but stopped short of condemning recent violence.

In a statement issued after a meeting in Lisbon, the 12 EC foreign ministers said the Community was willing to cooperate with the Algerian authorities in the economic recovery of the country providing it made progress in reforms.

The mild tone of the statement despite violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators was in marked contrast to the ministers' declaration condemning the killing of pro-democracy campaigners in Zaïre at the weekend.

Since elections were suspended last month after the Islamic Salvation Front seemed certain to win, EC governments have been torn between their concern for democratic values and their fear of seeing a fundamentalist

government in North Africa. They had not even managed a statement until Monday.

"No one condemned Algeria," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos told reporters after the meeting.

The statement said the EC had been following the situation with concern.

"The community and its members states reiterate their wish for Algeria to return to a normal institutional life and their encouragement of the high committee of state to promote dialogue among all parties concerned," the statement said.

"(They) strongly urge the Algerian authorities to pursue their publicly-announced commitments, namely their social and economic reforms, the restructuring of public administration and the protection of fundamental freedoms."

"(They) will support all efforts undertaken by the Algerian authorities to restore the democratic process. They hope that this

transitional process will be attained with respect for human rights, tolerance and political pluralism," the statement added.

Ministers also agreed to explore the possibility of a free trade agreement with neighbouring Morocco which has been upped by the European parliament's blocking of a \$465 million aid package because of concern over human rights there.

Rabat said last week it would not now accept the package. But EC governments have urged the parliament to think again and believe that enough deputies can be mustered at the next vote to provide the necessary majority.

They also asked the European Commission and Spain, the nearest EC country to North Africa, to draw up a document on the EC's relations with the Maghreb. Many in the community fear a wave of emigration from North Africa if political instability and economic crisis there are not checked.

Tribunal hears Arab water case against Israel

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — An international forum on water disputes Tuesday heard charges here that the Israeli government is denying water to Arab villages to dislodge their residents.

The international water tribunal, a 7-member panel of scientists, legal experts and human rights activists with no legal powers, was asked to condemn the alleged practice as a violation of international law.

Hatim Kana'neh of the Gail Society, an Israeli-based Arab medical aid group, said the denial of clean water "is part of a strategy of siege" to force Arabs from their lands and allow Israel to "Jewitize" areas not in the occupied territories.

Israeli spokesman Ramsi Bayadsi defended the policy of denying drinking water to so-called "unrecognised" villages, asserting it affects only a fraction of Israel's Arab population.

This case speaks for a much wider issue — the subjugation of one group of citizens for the benefit of another," Mr. Kana'neh told the tribunal.

Mr. Kana'neh said that half of the 70 Arab villages in Israel which are unrecognised by the authorities lack sufficient potable water because the government refuses them access to regional water systems.

He said the Arab residents must get water from unhygienic wells or neighbouring villages. Most of the unrecognised villages, which have no government permits, pre-date the 1948 founding of Israel, he claimed.

Mr. Kana'neh cited an outbreak of hepatitis in 1989 that claimed the life of a 3-year-old Arab child as a result of poor water supplies.

The one-week tribunal is scheduled to hear allegations of water-related abuses against corporations and governments including Brazil, China, the European Community states and India.

Israel is the only nation that has agreed to appear as a defendant at the tribunal.

"The citizens of Israel, Jews and non-Jews, have the right to receive drinking water provided they live on legally recognized sites," said Mr. Bayadsi.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Monde est a Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Inter-tropique
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Tereh
21:10 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Burning Shore

PRAYER TIMES

05:01 Fajr
06:30 Sunrise
11:50 Dhuhr
14:53 Asr
17:20 Maghreb
18:30 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfiah, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terzian Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711311

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151

Assuan International Church Tel. 685329

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A cold front accompanying a depression centred north of Turkey will affect Jordan Wednesday. Therefore it will become cold and cloudy and rains are expected in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Amman, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 4/11

Amman 10/20

Deserts 3/13

Jordan Valley 9/17

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 12, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Fakher Bilal 625778
Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364
Dr. Adnan Zughoul 896140
First pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 675052
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
BRID:
Dr. Radwan Al Sand 623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs 641108
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

ZARQA:
Dr. Jihad Makh 660100
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605893
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs 641108
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 813015

Electric Power Company 636361

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Indian, Al-Muhajireen 771013
Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 775117/26
Aray, Merka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/963323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/502540
Ruh Sun Hospital 09/963732
Al Hikmah Modern Hospital 09/969790

BEIRUT:
Pharmacia Bannan Hospital 02/272555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272725

Rou Al Nakara Hospital 02/277100

AQABA:
Pharmacia Haya Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Jordan (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Luxor (RJ)
09:30 Larnaca (RJ)
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:00 Istanbul (RJ)
10:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
10:00 Paris, Geneva (RJ)

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Jordan Times

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Move smacks of politics

THE ATTEMPT by some parliamentarians to ban alcohol in the country has of course many legal hurdles to clear before it becomes a serious endeavour. After the proposal to amend existing laws allowing the sale and consumption of alcohol has been sent by the Legal Committee to the Lower House for a debate, the honourable members will decide whether to ask the government for a draft law to be submitted to Parliament for consideration and perusal. That is where Jordanians expect that common sense will prevail and see the "prohibitionist" movement for what it is.

History is replete with attempts to outlaw alcohol for one reason or another, but all such efforts, albeit well-intentioned, precipitated more harm than good in the end. In our region of the world, there are still some diehard attempts to make the sale and consumption of alcohol illegal by the force of law. Yet, in the very same societies and countries in the Middle East where such efforts are maintained by legislations that prescribe heavy penalties, one can easily discern that the outcome of such efforts was and still is exactly the contrary to the desired objective. Improvisations that aimed to circumvent such legislations at high social and economic costs became the norm rather than the exception. Home manufactured, adulterated alcohol caused many deaths and contributed to the spread of crime. Middle Eastern style of "bootlegging" has become the order of the day in many such states, with dire consequences.

We, in Jordan, do not have an alcohol problem per se. Had we resorted to the outdated and archaic method of prohibition, the country would now be facing bigger problems connected with alcoholic beverages. This is not to mention the implications of any attempt by the government to intervene in such domains where in all civilised countries of the world such matters are only regulated but not outlawed. Having already stiff penalties against drunken driving or disturbing public peace and security by the abuse of drinking, the Kingdom is much safer with existing guidelines than it would be if Parliament reverses this time-honoured tradition of leaving such concerns to the free choice of the individual in our society. If the greater majority of Jordanians opt not to drink for religious, health or social reasons, that would be their choice and the rest of the country will only respect and honour that choice.

Jordan happens to be also a touristic country that is striving feverishly to develop and promote its tourist trade. Should it become a prohibitionist country all of a sudden, all the efforts painstakingly cultivated thus far to increase the volume of tourism in the Kingdom would simply backfire. Also, the people of the country belong to various shades of opinion and religions. By what right can Parliament legislate anything that would curtail the freedom of part of the population to exercise their traditional rights and freedoms? This will be something that Parliament will have to reckon with.

The forces that stand solidly behind the "prohibitionist" trend would be better advised to concentrate on ways and means to regulate the sale and consumption of alcohol rather than come out against it altogether. Even higher taxes on foreign-produced alcohol may be tolerated. But to turn back the clock to an era that was never part of the history of the country is simply no way to promote religion.

Under the circumstances the move was made by the 33 honourable members, we do not think it was intended to promote religion anyway. The move smacks of politics, intended to pre-empt debate by the House of the other pressing and urgently needed laws such as the elections and the press laws. The Lower House ought to know better its own priorities.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Tuesday reviewed the unemployment problem in Jordan in light of the prime minister's circular to various departments, proposing ideas for its solution, noting that the government does not have a magic wand to deal with the problem, and, therefore, it requires cooperation on the part of all concerned institutions in this serious matter. One cannot close his eyes and forget about this issue or wait for solutions to come from the blue, and the government's proposals to deal with the matter provided constructive steps which could help the country overcome the present difficulties, said the daily. Jordanians should not stand with their hands tied up in the face of this problem, but should exert all efforts to deal with its causes with the help of all able citizens, if we are to live in dignity, said the paper. This means sacrifices should be offered and speedy measures, like those suggested by the prime minister, should be heeded immediately, knowing for sure that there can be no easy solutions for problems accumulated over the years, the paper continued. The paper said that the government was doing all it can to deal with the situation and is trying to find jobs within its civil service system, but should it fail to do that, citizens must find their own way of earning a decent living with the help of the various concerned departments, like the vocational training, and should fight the spectre of unemployment with all available means.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the need for dams in Jordan in light of this year's heavy rain and snow that fell in the country. Mohammad Mahasneh said that the southern regions of Jordan lack dams although huge amounts of rain fall there every year. There are numerous areas and wadis where the country can build dams to collect rain water, like Wadi Main, Wadi Al Mujib, Wadi Al Yabis, Wadi Al Hassa, Wadi Tafleh and Shobak but nothing is being done, said the writer. He said the water, which falls over some 9,600 square kilometres, is being wasted and very little of it finds its way to the underground reservoirs. Had there been dams in the southern regions of Jordan, the water of the present winter season would not have been wasted and could have been saved for the dry season, the writer continued.

Economic Forum

Income tax and private enterprise

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Last Saturday, the government published in the Official Gazette the latest Jordanian legislation on income tax, namely the Income Tax Law No. 4, 1992. Obviously, this must be the most recent tax legislation in the world. Most probably, it is also the most backward bit of tax legislation.

The reason is that it provides for extraordinarily high tax rates at a time when the whole world is drifting firmly towards cutting these rates, admittedly with the exception of only two countries: Luxembourg and Lebanon.

Since the invention of the income tax, Bruce Bartlett writes in the Wall Street Journal, the trend has been ever upwards, that is until recently. Then, Mr. Bartlett goes on to list the names of 55 countries which cut their top rates in the period 1984-89, of the 29 countries which did not change that rate in addition to the two only countries which raised their top rates. Lebanon elevated its top income tax rate (that is the marginal rate) from 44 per cent to 50 per cent. But as law is not practically forced in Lebanon, at least it was so in the pre-mentioned period, the case of Lebanon can be dismissed.

The case of Luxembourg can also be overlooked because the increase in the marginal income tax rate was negligible as it was raised from 57 per cent to only 58.8 per cent. In the United Kingdom, the top tax rate was slashed from 60 per cent to 40 per cent. In the United States, it dived from 50 per cent to 28 per cent. Of course, Mr. Bartlett's list was incomplete because it did not

incorporate Jordan which embarked since 1989 on an active policy of raising tax rates.

Under Jordan's most recent tax law, our top tax rate stands as high as 50 per cent public share-holding companies and 55 per cent on ordinary companies. With such rates, it is very legitimate to raise the serious question of whether the company is effectively owned by the government or by its registered owners, that is the private sector. And the answer must be self-evident: by the government. It is not only that the treasury appropriates around 50 per cent of the income of what is supposed to be a private enterprise, but also that it does not share in its losses. When the enterprise achieves a profit, the government is there to scoop 50 per cent of it. When it incurs a loss, the partnership breaks down. Under these circumstances, it is not right to talk about a private enterprise economy.

It is rather puzzling how the International Monetary Fund (IMF) let Jordan get away with this increase. The roots of the present tax hike go back to 1969 when Jordan was contracting an economic adjustment programme with and under the supervision of the IMF. The literature published by IMF on tax reform in developing countries showed that the first rule, derived from the experiences of these countries, was that a successful tax reform was one based on lower tax rates and wider tax base. We, in Jordan, have not only raised tax rates but also raised them to a

prohibitively high level that normally leads to the narrowing of that base. It also allures tax-payers to indulge in tax evasion.

Governments and their ministers of finance do not usually buy the notion that higher taxes tend to narrow the tax base (through the discouragement of fresh investments). They may be right as far as the short run is concerned. It is only in the longer run that aggressive tax rates start to abort the expansion of output.

However, some of these negative aspects may materialise even in the short run. Not many investors will be willing to come to Jordan; be they Jordanian expatriates or Arabs when they know that the tax rate stands at 40 to 55 per cent. This is especially true as they can go to so many other places in the area, to Europe and round the world; as potential investors come mainly from the Gulf states, there are no barriers whatsoever on capital to travel anywhere. Another decisive fact is that Jordanians themselves can move their investments abroad as well. Our economic system is still liberal enough to allow this sort of capital exodus.

Once a tax is installed, it is pretty difficult to undo it. Even if the present tax hikes are reversible, how long will it take Jordan to reverse them, go back to normal and make up for their ill-effects? Very long indeed, provided, of course, we get a finance minister who would not mind giving up some public revenues. Such pioneers are not, unfortunately, a common species.

U.S. Navy could win aircraft carrier war

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military waved a white flag and scuttled its new Seawolf submarine under attack from Congress last month, but it has drawn the line against cuts in a planned fleet of 13 aircraft carriers after 1995.

Defence analysts say, however, that the navy may also have to retreat in the fight over the costly floating airfields, which for decades have projected influence on the high seas.

The planned fleet of 12 active duty "flat-tops" and one for training in 1995 is two less than the current U.S. total but still significantly higher than the nine demanded by some in Congress

in a bitter post-cold war budget fight.

"Carriers have a role in the future as important as the role they've had in the past," General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, told reporters last week.

But military experts say pressure is growing to cut U.S. defence spending after the collapse of the

International Studies.

Gen. Powell and other senior military officers concede the reduced carrier plan represents only a small budget cut compared to the Seawolf attack submarine and the air force B-2 Stealth Bomber.

But they insist that carriers are useful tools in a still-dangerous world.

NEWS ANALYSIS

former Soviet Union and that carriers will be another victim of the so-called peace dividend.

"I expect the Pentagon will have to absorb further spending cuts. And the joint chiefs will make the navy take its share," said James Blackwell of the Private Centre for Strategic and

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney agreed two weeks ago to cancel the Seawolf programme as the first \$1 billion boat was being built and to cut plans for the B-2 from 75 to only 20 at a cost of over \$2 billion each.

But, despite the 3.5 billion-dollar-plus cost of a single nuclear

aircraft carrier, Pentagon officials and private analysts point to decades of success by flat-tops from World War II to the Gulf war.

"The navy might be forced to give up another carrier before the end of the decade but it's hard to argue against their success," said former Assistant Defence Secretary Lawrence Korb, now with the Private Brookings Institution.

"It takes a long time to build a carrier," said former Defence Secretary Harold Brown, with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

"The threat of U.S. carriers has often preserved peace without a fight," Mr. Brown added.

Under current plans, the navy would have eight active nuclear carriers and five conventionally powered ones — including its

training ship — beginning in 1996.

The newer Nimitz-class ships are nuclear-powered floating cities 300 metres long and displacing more than 85,000 tonnes with up to 5,800 crew members, 90 aircraft and the ability to cruise the world without refueling.

The navy last week relegated the 36-year-old carrier Forrestal to pilot training status to replace the retiring Lexington, which had launched propeller-driven U.S. fighters and bombers against Japanese forces in 1943.

As other older flat-tops are retired over the next four years, the nuclear-powered behemoths George Washington, John Stennis and United States will join the fleet. Another carrier, yet unnamed, is scheduled for construction beginning in 1995 — if Congress gives its approval.

Critics, who will be heard often in coming congressional budget debates, say carriers are vulner-

able relics in an age when "artillery fire" often involves lightning-quick missiles.

They argue that weapons have changed so radically since carrier-based dive bombers and torpedo planes smashed Japan's navy that the big ships are no longer worth their cost.

In the 1982 Falklands war, they note, an Argentine missile sank the British destroyer Sheffield and Britain had to keep its carriers well back from the combat zone.

But the carriers' supporters say they are protected by sophisticated electronics and by other ships and have proved themselves to be indispensable tools of influence from the 1962 Cuban missile blockade to the 1986 air raids on Libya.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is fond of saying that, when a crisis occurs, "the president always wants to know where the aircraft carriers are."

Killing of Hizbollah chief unleashes Shiite rage

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — Israel's killing of the head of the Muslim fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God) unleashed rage in Lebanon on Monday threatening to ignite the south despite Middle East peace talks.

Diplomats and Lebanese political analysts said much depended on how Iran and Hizbollah handled deep outrage among Shiite Muslims at the assassination of Sheikh Abbas Musawi on Sunday in a helicopter ambush.

They said the war between Israel and Hizbollah in south Lebanon, which has so far largely failed to endanger the peace talks since October, would undoubtedly escalate in coming weeks.

But diplomats added Hizbollah's patron Iran would largely decide whether militants were allowed to mount the number and type of attacks needed to shake the peace talks.

"Attacks on Israeli units in the south will increase in a week or so and Hizbollah will try for operations using a variety of methods — booby-traps, assassinations," said one diplomat.

"But I don't believe Hizbollah is strong enough or even inclined to work against the peace talks elsewhere. The south will be the theatre and the south will suffer," he said.

Hizbollah guerrillas fired scores of shells and Katyusha rockets against Israel, sparking artillery duels with Israeli troops holding a 15-km (nine-mile) deep "security zone" in the south.

"We're pretty worried that we may be in a position where this could get totally out of control," said a Western diplomat.

"Iran and Hizbollah could let the anger evaporate slowly or with Israel's help they could throw us into a deeper spiral of violence in south Lebanon that could spread elsewhere," he said.

"We hope that tempers cool and both sides will see this sort of violence achieves nothing but more suffering... something we had hoped that Lebanon was moving away from in the last year."

Diplomats said the Syrian-backed Lebanese government was in a quandary. It publicly endorses Hizbollah as a legitimate movement of resistance to

Israel's presence in south Lebanon. But it desperately wants peace to encourage an Israel pull-out.

Most Lebanese political leaders were fairly slow to condemn the assassination of Sheikh Musawi, who, shortly before his death, accused the government of inaction against Israeli occupation. Lebanon decided on Monday to call for a U.N. Security Council meeting on Sheikh Musawi's killing. Its troops in the south joined in artillery duels with Israel and its local allies.

A diplomat with close links to Hizbollah forecast that the Lebanese army would eventually be dragged into the conflict but said he believed it would be used against Hizbollah's fighters.

Most diplomats said they doubted the killing of Sheikh Musawi or increased violence in south Lebanon would sabotage the next round of peace talks due to start in Washington on February 24.

They noted an announcement from Syria and Lebanon, which boycotted multilateral talks in Moscow last month, that they would attend the bilateral talks coincided with news of Sheikh Musawi's death.

Syria decided to attend with Lebanon and will probably not revoke its decision... its position since the peace talks began was to keep Lebanon relatively quiet," a Western envoy said.

"But militants could make it hard for at least the Lebanese to attend by threatening the delegation. And if the south does explode Syria would have to harden its stand at the talks."

Iran's ambassador to Syria, Sheikh Mohammad Hassan Akhtari, reacted to Sheikh Musawi's killing by warning Hizbollah would take revenge but failed to mention the Middle East talks.

"The Israeli enemy and the international arrogance, the great satan (of Washington) should know that martyrdom is a matter of pride and dignity for us," Sheikh Akhtari said in a written statement which was distributed by Hizbollah in Beirut.

"If a leader among us dies, another leader will carry the flag and the enemy should know that the resistance with God's help will avenge... and will continue its operations against the enemy until it is wiped out of existence," Sheikh Akhtari said.

Israeli anger with Hizbollah centred on hostages

By Jack Redden
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The assassination of Hizbollah leader Abbas Musawi marked a decisive end to Israel's attempt to negotiate a prisoner swap with the Muslim fundamentalist group.

Sunday's rocket attack on the convoy of the chief of the pro-Iranian Shiite organisation followed the death of three Israeli soldiers in an attack by Palestinians who sneaked into an army camp in the Israeli-held West Bank.

"This was an attack intended to hurt Hizbollah," Defence Minister Moshe Arens said on state television after hours of official silence about the raid.

He confirmed he had sent rocket-firing helicopters to ambush the convoy of cars carrying Musawi, his wife, six-year-old son and aides.

But apart from the immediate trigger of Saturday's Palestinian attack on the army camp, the strike showed how deep Israel's frustration had become with Hizbollah over the failure of talks to recover a long-missing Israeli airman.

Even during the official silence before Mr. Arens' announcement, Israeli officials had been distributing documents saying Hizbollah sought the complete destruction of Israel.

Hizbollah guerrillas had fought Israeli troops, often with suicide attacks, since shortly after Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. They still clash continually with the forces of Israel or its Lebanese militia, the South Lebanon army.

But Israel also had long sought to be included in any exchange of hostages arranged with Hizbollah through the United Nations in order to recover servicemen who had disappeared in Lebanon.

In 1989, Israeli commandos kidnapped Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Hizbollah cleric, as a bargaining chip. No trade transpired.

But when efforts to free Western prisoners believed held by Hizbollah accelerated last year, Israel saw a fresh opportunity to gain the release of — or at least information on — its missing servicemen.

It learned that two servicemen

ambushed by Hizbollah in Israel's self-declared security zone in Southern Lebanon in 1986 were dead, although it did not recover the bodies.

Mr. Arens noted that attack in seeking to justify the killing of Musawi.

Israel received the body of a serviceman who was seized by Palestinian guerrillas in 1983 and died in captivity, possibly during an Israeli air raid.

The Jewish state learned nothing about three of its soldiers who disappeared during a tank battle with Syrian troops in 1982, but there is little chance they are alive.

Concern focused above all on Ron Arad, an Israeli navigator known to have survived after being shot down over Lebanon in November 1986. The government was convinced he had ended up in Hizbollah's hands and repeatedly said it believed he was alive.

In an effort to trade for Mr. Arad, Israel last year offered Sheikh Obeid and hundreds of Shiite prisoners it holds in Israel and the security zone in Lebanon. But while efforts through the U.N. to free Western hostages moved quickly, and nine were released, progress for Israel was slow. No Lebanese group would even admit knowledge of Mr. A.ad.

After journalist Terry Anderson, the last American hostage held in Lebanon, was freed from Beirut last December by captors linked to Hizbollah, Israel appeared to sense it had been left out of a general settlement.

Early this year, hostage negotiator Ori Slonim resigned. Rumours circulated that Uri Lubrani, Israel's chief of policy for Lebanon, was considering a similar move.

By the weekend, diplomats in Lebanon were saying U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali would soon have to decide whether to continue efforts to arrange hostage swaps.

"Momentum disappeared when the last American hostage was freed," said a diplomat. "Now most people are complaining about what they didn't win rather than working to break the deadlock."

LETTERS

No place for heroes

To the Editor:

The "Time" issue of Oct. 7, 1991, carried two statements (among others) by Cathy Booth in an article on Columbus, on the occasion of the commemoration of his discovery of the Americas. They read as follows:

— Mythology is a closed system, a revolving circle of self-reinforcing perceptions.

— It is easy to see why former victims might like their turn as heroes.

This prompted my following thoughts: History breeds mythology, which, in turn, breeds fanaticism and political myopia.

Madrid has ushered the signal for a more dignified entry to the twenty-first century, with a vengeance to history and disdain to mythology.

Leave history for the historians. Shout "myth" when you hear one... live and let live in this global village, where the rules are set by international acquiescence.

The relinquishment of the occupied lands of Palestine to their rightful owners is a very small concession on the Israeli side. The return prognosticates an era of global compassion when considering issues like fairness, legality, and international legitimacy.

Let us open the self-imposed circle of perception, and let no victim dream of taking his turn as hero; there is no place for superstar heroes anymore. Just check-in, take your place and keep as quiet as you can. This is the new world order.

Raja F. Halazon,
Amman, Jordan.

Snow lessons

To the Editor:

As the government took to the repair of the infrastructure, can we, as adults, look at the impact of the snowstorms upon our children's education.

Surely, the snowfall highlights the point that as climatic changes come upon us a review of our educational system is in order. Instead of the huge summer break, it would be more logical to extend the time of the winter break.

Some people might complain, but many of our children suffer in schools with minimal heating or costly fuel bills.

We should also accept a natural event for what it is and as happens in some countries, take an educational loss. Why don't we concentrate on the teaching, abandon the second mid-year tests and only have a final in the summer? Our teaching staff would be flexible enough to cope with this.

On a final note, I would like to thank Jordan Television's main channel whose staff did a remarkable job under difficult circumstances, reporting on and giving out public announcements.

The foreign channel, though, became, during the inclement weather, a series of foreign headlines rather than a service to those who needed it. It would have been nice to know if schools were closed or open rather than seeing how many cans of Campbell's soup were being transported to the former Soviet Union. The foreign community send their children to school too.

Let us hope that something positive arises from this past experience.

E.A. Issa Khanafseh,
P.O. Box 966806,
Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Palestinians delay departure, await PLO decision

(Continued from page 1)

Hanan Ashrawi, the delegation spokeswoman, said at a Jerusalem news conference that the arrests, stepping up construction of Jewish settlements and planned deportations were an Israeli attempt to torpedo the U.S.-backed talks.

"It has become very clear that the whole peace process is being placed in jeopardy by these Israeli actions," she said. "The whole peace process cannot remain subject to unilateral actions by Israel."

Dr. Ashrawi said the release of the two delegates would likely lead the Palestinians to leave for the talks.

The talks began with a conference in Madrid, Spain, in October. Two sessions have been held since in Washington, one delayed when Israel failed to appear and the second delayed by a Palestinian protest over Israeli orders to deport 12 Palestinians.

In Damascus officials said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al

Shara and Mr. Qaddoumi met in Damascus to coordinate strategy before the Washington meeting.

Palestinian sources said PLO leader Yasser Arafat would arrive in Damascus within the next 24 hours to discuss the talks with Syria, which has already said it will attend.

But diplomats said they expected the PLO to sanction Palestinian attendance despite the detention by Israel of two Palestinian delegates.

Officials said Mr. Shara and Mr. Qaddoumi had discussed developments in the region and the results of the three previous rounds of the U.S.-brokered talks.

One member of Mr. Qaddoumi's delegation, Tayser Khaled of the hardline Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said the PLO should reconsider its attitude to the peace talks.

"There is no meaning for resuming the talks while Israel continues its daily violation of human rights and is building more settle-

ments in occupied Arab lands," he said in a statement.

The DFLP, which Mr. Khaled represents on the PLO executive committee, opposes the peace talks with Israel. It says Israel should stop building settlements and recognise Palestinian rights before the talks start.

"The PLO should reconsider its position on the whole talks until Israel announces its respect for international resolutions and accepts the PLO right to name members of the Palestinian delegation," Mr. Khaled said.

Mr. Qaddoumi arrived in the Syrian capital stressing the need for Arabs to coordinate their strategy.

In a statement to reporters he denounced "increasing Israeli aggression" and said "Israeli obstinacy" was blocking the peace process.

"We as an Arab family should always be ready to defend ourselves and to coordinate our action as an Arab group in these fast-changing circumstances."

Six new members were named Tuesday to the Palestinian delegation.

According to Palestinian sources, the new members would replace six current negotiators or advisers in an effort to widen representation. Among those expected to be replaced was Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, a well-known moderate.

The new delegates are: Hassan Ibrahim Abu Labada, 32, of Ramallah, a mathematics lecturer at Birzeit University in the West Bank, Nazmi Al Jaba, 38, east Jerusalem, Birzeit archaeologist, Suad Al Amiri, Ramallah, Birzeit engineering lecturer.

Also, Jaber Fada, 50, from the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp, a lecturer on English literature at Islamic University in Gaza, Abdul Hadi Abu Khusa, from Gaza's Shati refugee camp, and Dr. Anwar Duden, a physician from Hebron in the West Bank.

Other negotiators likely to be replaced are Freih Abu Medeen, Nabil Jabari, Sami Kilani and adviser Zuhair Kamal.

Man and wood — a fascinating exhibition

By Victoire Jean

Faithful to its tradition, the French Natural History Museum in Paris follows its vocation to present nature and show the public the hidden side of the living world. It recently presented a big exhibition devoted to wood.

The originality of the exhibition "Bois a Coeur Ouvert" lies in the museum's new openness towards modernity. It combines its scholarly knowledge of the past with the more active and concrete knowledge of industrialists and professionals from the wood sector, working together with the Tropical Forestry Technical Centre and the Wood and Furniture Centre.

This close cooperation takes us on a walk through wood. The white wood of the poplar, the red wood of rosewood, the yellow wood of the movinguia, two-tone woods, and the black of ebony, uniformly coloured, all have growth rings right inside their trunks, beneath the bark.

These rings increase every year and tell us the story of "he life of the tree, its age, the growth rate and even the history of the place that the tree has grown in. An analysis of each concentric layer reveals, for instance, the periods of drought or of excessive humidity which they lived through.

The specimens presented in the exhibition, from the fragment of a fossil, a timeless sculpture to a petrified forest in Amazonia, to the multiple cross-sections showing the delicate anatomy, remind us that their existence goes back nearly 356 million years.

As soon as man appeared on earth, he made the tree the indispensable ally for his survival. Wood became his inseparable everyday companion, his source of heat, his means of subsistence, of defence and his shelter.

formed into new materials having different qualities suited to the development of the industrial civilisation.

So, for thousands of years, man and trees have continued their adventure. It is an everlasting L'Actualite En France.

Tahunga, the magic sculptor

With time, man grew to know wood better, to distinguish the different species surrounding him and to adapt it to the needs of his time.

As a prime necessity, just like man, wood was going to become polished and refined.

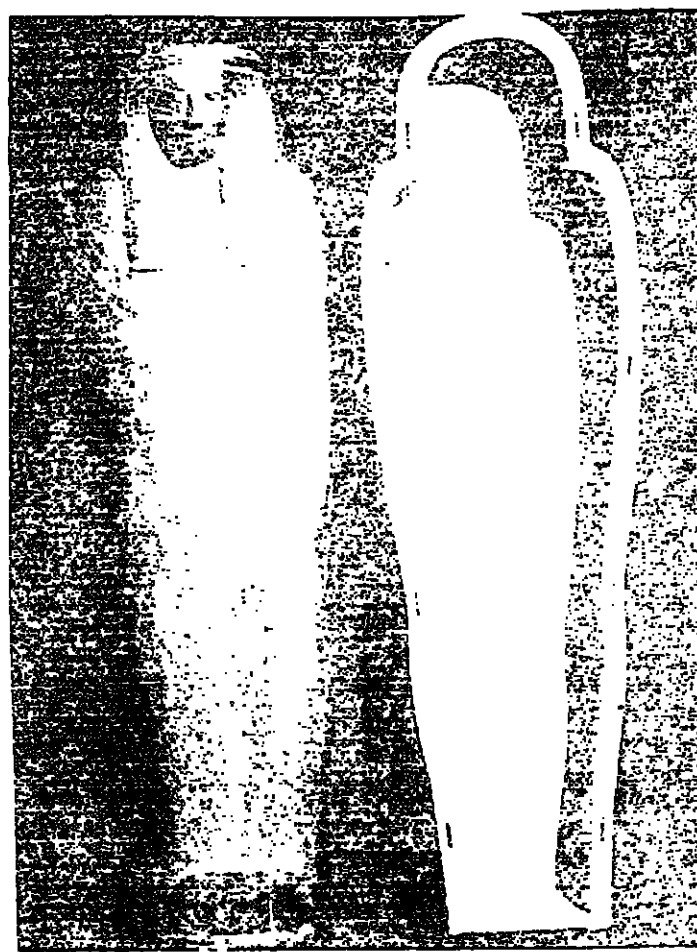
This is borne out by the skill of the Egyptians with the sarcophagus, which is a painstaking and artistic assembly of pieces of wood.

Vestiges of an extinct plant life, the statues on Easter Island are also there in memory of Tahunga, the magic sculptor, who was able to give shape and life to the "wood of blood", the colour of the sophora toromiro, a little legendary tree, the last specimen of which became extinct around 1960.

Wood has its prestige in the modern era in the form of the violin, the symbol of the perfect, subtle harmony of form and sound, a combination of maple and spruce from which, thanks to its strings, timeless notes will drift forth.

Today, that same familiar and warm wood surrounds us in our everyday lives, combining usefulness with beauty in an often natural way, for instance in furniture.

In the future, it will continue on its way to meet other demands. To meet the requirements of the economy, it could be trans-



Sarcophagus made of Lebanon's cedar trees (1000-700 B.C.)

Lebanon requests Security Council session

(Continued from page 1)

said. In the east Lebanese town of Baalbek on Tuesday, tens of thousands of Hizbollah supporters, including hundreds of hooded gunmen, gathered for the funeral procession to Sheikh Musawi's home village of Nabatieh.

The mourners, led by Lebanese and Palestinian clergymen and Iranian diplomats and officials, carried black flags and banners vowing revenge against Israel.

"God is one, Khomeini is our leader, victory to Islam, death to Israel, war, war until victory, march, march to Jerusalem," they chanted, reported Reuter correspondent Nadim Ladki.

"The blood of Musawi will strengthen our determination to confront and fight. And the coming days will prove that," said Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

"We believe this Israeli operation would not have taken place without American clearance," he told Reuters.

Tens of thousands turned out on Monday to welcome Sheikh Musawi's coffin to Baalbek, a Hizbollah stronghold 70 km east of Beirut. "Israel is digging its own grave," senior Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told the mourners.

"We will continue the march even if we are killed and our houses destroyed. We will not abandon ... resistance," he added.

Diplomats and officials said the war between Hizbollah and Israel in the south would escalate in the coming weeks.

On Tuesday Hizbollah elected Sheikh Nasrallah as secretary-general to succeed Sheikh Musawi.

Officials said Sheikh Nasrallah was unanimously elected by the 11-man consultative council that rules Hizbollah.

Sheikh Nasrallah serves on the council of Hizbollah which was vowed to avenge Sheikh Musawi's death.

Israel prepares for Hizbollah revenge

In northern Israel, Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Tuesday Israel was preparing for a surge of attacks from Lebanon by Hizbollah.

"I am sure they are going to try. We are going to try to stop them," Mr. Arens told reporters while touring northern Israel where Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon fell for a second straight day, causing light damage.

"I think one thing is clear — if there are going to be disturbances towards the civilian population in the northern part of Israel, it's not going to be easy on the other side of the border," he said.

Arens labelled Hizbollah "that terrorist organisation of holy warriors." He said Hizbollah attacks against Israel had intensified under Sheikh Musawi's leadership.

Israel's army chief of staff Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak said on Monday that Israel expected the Lebanese government and army to maintain order. He said Israel was ready to act both offensively and defensively.

"If there is not quiet, those who disturb the quiet will have to pay a very high price," Gen. Barak said.

Former Israeli intelligence chief Meir Amit advised Israelis to take Hizbollah's threats seriously.

"Hizbollah specialises in very cruel reprisals," he said. "They are even cruel to themselves — suicides."

In the Gaza Strip, the Islamic Jihad-Palestine group issued a leaflet urging followers to avenge Sheikh Musawi's killing in blood.

"Slaughter the Jews with your knives and your sickles," wrote the pro-Iranian group which views itself as an extension of Hizbollah.

Guard warned Musawi

Sheikh Musawi, was warned of intense Israeli air activity minutes before his convoy was blown apart in south Lebanon, a body-

guard said Tuesday.

"I told the sayed (Sheikh Abbas Musawi) before our convoy moved there was intense Israeli air force activity over the area," the bodyguard, who declined to be named, told Reuters. "He replied: 'If one's hour comes he can do nothing about it.'"

The bodyguard said he didn't see the first helicopter to pounce on the convoy shortly after Sheikh Musawi left a rally commemorating the killing of a Hizbollah leader in 1984.

"I was in a Range Rover driving in front of the sayed's car when I heard and explosion be-

hind us. We thought it was a RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) and we knew that it was an ambush," he said.

"We pulled over and jumped from the car and took combat positions. We then saw the Sheikh's car burning."

"The driver and the bodyguard sitting in the front opened the door and jumped out with their clothes on fire," he said.

We ran to save them and saw that the Sheikh and his family, who were sitting in the back seat, had become martyrs because the rocket had hit the car from the rear," the bodyguard said.

VACANCY

Convocation: Free.

Post: BUTLER - WAITER IN RESIDENCE.

Basic functions:

- Waiter functions
- Cleaning
- Receiving phone call

Requirements:

- Coming of age.
- Be able to read & write.
- In case of not being Jordanian, "residence permit" should be valid.
- Languages: Arabic & English

Trial: Interview in Chancery

Virtue value: Experience in similar work.

Experience value: 10 points:

- References, 4 points
- Certificates, 3 points
- Languages, 3 points

Law to be applied: Jordanian Labour Law.

Salary: 506-dollars USA

Selection committee: Embassy of Spain in Jordan.

Observation: The selected candidate should pass a trial period of three months, before proceeding to a definitive contract.

Presentation of applications: Embassy of Spain in Amman. P.O.Box 454 From: 19-02-92 to 03-03-92 - Curriculum Vitae. - 2 pictures. - Photocopy of residence or identity card.

VACANCY

Convocation: Free

Post: Cook in residence.

Basic functions:

- Daily menu preparation
- Preparations of official receptions.
- Kitchen maintenance

Requirements:

- Coming of age.
- Be able to read & write.
- In case of not being Jordanian, "residence permit" should be valid.
- Languages: Arabic & English

Trial: Interview in Chancery

Virtue value: Experience in similar work.

Experience value: 10 points:

- References, 4 points
- Certificates, 3 points
- Languages, 3 points

Law to be applied: Jordanian Labour Law.

Salary: 745-dollars USA

Selection committee: Embassy of Spain in Jordan.

Observation: The selected candidate should pass a trial period of three months, before proceeding to a definitive contract.

Presentation of applications: Embassy of Spain in Amman. P.O.Box 454 From: 19-02-92 to 03-03-92 - Curriculum Vitae. - 2 pictures. - Photocopy of residence or identity card.

VACANCY

Convocation: Free.

Post: Domestic Assistant at embassy

Basic functions:

- Cleaning.
- Gardening

Requirements:

- Coming of age.
- Be able to read & write.
- In case of not being Jordanian, "residence permit" should be valid.
- Languages: Arabic & English

Trial: Interview in Chancery

Virtue value: Experience in similar work.

Experience value: 10 points:

- References, 4 points
- Certificates, 3 points
- Languages, 3 points

Law to be applied: Jordanian Labour Law.

Salary: 506-dollars USA

Selection committee: Embassy of Spain in Jordan.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Tomba, Compagnoni win Alpine golds for Italy at Olympics

ALBERTVILLE, France (AP) — Alberto "La Bomba" Tomba beat an Olympic jinx and teammate Deborah Compagnoni snatched gold in another Alpine shocker as Italy scored resounding triumphs Tuesday on sunny slopes at the winter games.

Japan won its first Winter Olympic gold in 20 years when its Nordic combined team held off Norway and Austria in a 30-kilometre cross country ski relay. Japan swept all three medals in 70-metre ski jumping when it held the 1972 games at home. In the combined time, ski jumping points gave the Japanese a big lead for the cross country portion.

Skiing on the treacherous "La Face" in Val d'Isere, Tomba won the giant slalom to become the first Alpine skier ever to win the same Olympic event twice. Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg won the silver and Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway the bronze.

In nearby Meribel, Compagnoni shattered France's hopes for gold when she snatched the gold in super giant slalom from Carole Merle in another dramatic race. Katja Seizinger of Germany won the bronze.

Norway continued its mastery of men's cross country skiing by winning the 4x10-kilometre relay

by a huge margin over Italy and Finland. It was Norway's fourth straight gold on the hilly, 1,600-metre track at Les Saisies.

Vegard "the Viking" Ulvang, who skied the second leg for Norway, got his third gold medal of the Albertville games, the most by any male competitor so far.

But Tomba was the biggest story on the 11th day of these games, achieving a goal of consecutive victories in an Alpine discipline that had eluded many great skiers before him. Tomba won the giant slalom and special slalom at the 1988 Calgary Olympics, so he has a chance to score a unique double in the second event Saturday.

The latest medal count showed Germany leading with 22 medals, including eight golds, followed by the Unified Team of former Soviets with 17 total, including seven gold.

Austria was third with 16 medals, including four gold, and Norway fourth with 15 medals, seven gold. Italy followed in fifth with 10 medals, including three from the Alpine events.

On Monday, the games saved the last dance for France, but Russians skated off with the ice dancing gold and a historic cross country skiing medal. Raisa Sme-

tanina's gold in the women's 4x5-kilometre relay was her 10th medal in five Olympics, more than anyone else has won in the winter games.

Germany shot ahead in the overall medals race as Gunda Niemann led a 1-2-3 sweep in the women's 5,000-metre speedskating, picking off her second gold.

Tomba said before his first race of these games: "Right now, I am relaxed, tranquil and confident that I can win...."

"However, the Olympics are very special events, and upsets are frequent."

Of five Alpine ski races so far in these games, four have ended in upsets. Meanwhile, French skier Franck Piccard and Austrian Leonard Stock, Hubert Strolz and Anita Wachter all have failed in tries here to repeat previous Olympic victories.

Meanwhile the last of America's 1991 World Championship figure skating team has arrived, ready to meet Japan's Midori Ito and France's Surya Bonaly. And it's about time, since the Olympic singles competition began Wednesday.

Americans Kristi Yamaguchi and Nancy Kerrigan have been in Albertville since before the Feb. 8 opening ceremony, but Tonya Harding didn't arrive until Sun-

day, choosing to train longer in Portland, Oregon.

"I wanted to have the ice time that was available to me at home and that I would not have had available to me here," the 21-year-old said Monday.

Sure, she missed the opening ceremonies and the camaraderie of the athletes' village.

But that's not why the fiercely competitive Harding is here. She's here to win a medal, and that's it.

To do it, the 1991 U.S. champion will have to beat Yamaguchi, the reigning world champion, and Ito, after spending more than a year injured.

The Americans, who swept the 1991 World Championships, are expected to win two of three Olympic medals.

Yamaguchi, the 20-year-old U.S. champion and daughter of third-generation Japanese-American parents, is almost a sure bet. But whether the other medal will be won by Harding or Kerrigan, the 22-year-old U.S. silver medalist, is in question.

Bonaly is also a factor. The 18-year-old won the 1991 European Championships, was fifth in the World Championships that year, and will have the support of the French crowd behind her.

Klimova-Ponomarenko beat Duchesnays at their game

ALBERTVILLE, France (AP) — With passion and polish, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko beat the Duchesnays at their game in their territory and made Olympic history Monday night.

The French favorites, Paul and Isabelle Duchesnay, said they could have done better, but they were constrained by the skating establishment.

Klimova and Ponomarenko became the first figure skaters to win Olympic gold, silver and bronze medals. They finished first in all three disciplines of dance this time, taking the free dance with a captivating programme they said emphasised man and woman's devotion to each other and God.

That gave them the unique hat trick after they won silver in 1988 and bronze in 1984.

"Since 1983, we skate by our own style and we never copy anybody," Ponomarenko said. "We have the free programme, as you see, with different programmes and different style each year. We can skate in fun or tragic, in different styles."

Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, considered the world's best free dancers, were second Monday night and overall. Isabelle Duchesnay said she has had a severe cold and the flu for two days.

Russians Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin were third. Another unified team couple, Oksana Grischuk and Evgeni Platov, was fourth.

The former Soviet Union has won all but one Olympic dance gold medal since the event joined the schedule in 1976. The only couple to break that string was Britain's Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean in 1984. Dean now is Isabelle Duchesnay's husband and the team's choreographer.

Paul Duchesnay complained that he and his sister were forced by judges and referees to implement a relatively conservative

programme.

"We did a lot of sacrifices for the rules," he said. "We could have done some more interesting moves, but Chris felt chained by the rule book. We were basically told to do it this way. You don't get the freedom you like."

Apparently the Russians didn't feel as limited by the rules. The winners' performance was sensual, even at times risqué.

Klimova and Ponomarenko's steamy programme, to music by Bach, began with 18 seconds of twists and lifts while one or the other — or both — were lying on the ice they threatened to melt.

It progressed majestically, highlighted by several unusual lifts, including one where she was held upside-down wrapped around his leg.

A half-dozen other unique lifts and carries led to a furious finish in which Ponomarenko lifted his wife high, then helped her drop softly to the ice.

After a long ovation, the Russians received marks ranging from 5.5 to 5.9. The 5.5, not surprisingly, came from the French judge who had given the couple low numbers all week. It was booed heartily by the fans.

With no chance for the gold, the Duchesnays went out and skated superbly before their adopted countrymen — both grew up in Canada, although Paul was born in France. Using music from the opening of West Side Story, their series of lifts and twists — plus somersault by Paul and even one sequence where Isabelle appears to lift her brother twice — left them exhausted.

They hugged for nearly a minute when the routine was done, while the fans saluted them with rhythmic clapping, foot-stomping, flag-waving and chants of "Doo-sha-ny."

The Russian gold medalists and the Duchesnays joined forces to salvage the rules of ice dancing after resolving their Olympic battle Monday.

France promises style, goals against England

LONDON (R) — France intend to strut with style and confidence around England's Wembley home in Wednesday's European Soccer Championship dress rehearsal, rather than man the barricades to preserve their impressive unbeaten record.

Michael Platini, the great player who has successfully transferred his inspirational qualities from the field to the coach's bench, wants his proteges to plunder France's first victory in England.

"I want us to play with style and go for goals and say 'let the best team win' and hopefully that will be France," said Platini, whose team play England in the group stages of the European Championship finals in June.

"I would not think of going out there and playing defensively. This is an important time for us with the European Championship so close. It is a big game and hopefully will be a beautiful game."

France visit Wembley for the first time in 23 years, when they lost 5-0 with the best record in Europe.

They are the only team to qualify for the championship finals with a 100 per cent record and have a 19-game unbeaten run which is just 19 days short of three days — when Scotland were the victors.

Platini must be quietly confident of not just stretching his unbeaten run in the friendly, but inflicting a morale-shattering defeat on England, beaten only once since Graham Taylor took over 18 months ago.

Taylor's attempts to find a settled team to play in his preferred style have been thwarted time and again by a run of injuries to key players, and Wednesday he could possibly be giving debuts to three players.

Southampton's twin strike-force of Matthew Le Tissier and Alan Shearer, who has scored 12 goals in 11 under-21 internationals, are expected to at least have substitute roles.

Injuries have robbed Taylor of creative midfield talents of World Cup players John Barnes, Paul Gascoigne and David Platt.

"Since Gascoigne was injured in the F.A. Cup final it has been one injury after another," said Taylor. "As we build up towards Sweden I had hoped to develop a squad system. But that understanding cannot take place if players are missing."

Captain Gary Lineker accepts England are going through an unsettled time, but says the result against France will count for nothing when the two meet again in Malmö on June 14.

"I don't think this game will have any bearing whatsoever on the game in June," he said. "We are very much in a transitional time. We have one or two injuries and Taylor will want to experiment a little so I don't think we will have the side that starts in Sweden, while Platini has got his team sorted out."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Scots call up two new caps

EDINBURGH (R) — Scotland have named two new caps in their side to face Northern Ireland at Hampden Park Wednesday — the first of their five warm-up games for the European Championship finals. Hibernian's Keith Wright makes his first international appearance at any level when he partners Ally McCoist up front. Glasgow Rangers left back David Robertson also comes into the side for the first time, while Hearts goalkeeper Henry Smith is recalled, four years after making his only other appearance against Saudi Arabia.

Sick Russian biathlete to fly home

ALBERTVILLE (R) — Russian biathlete Sergei Tarasov, laid low at the Winter Olympics by a mystery infection, is expected to leave hospital and return home this week, the games medical chief said Monday. Tarasov, a silver medalist at last year's World Championships, was recovering in the intensive care unit of Chambery Hospital, medical services chief Dr. Patrick Schamasch said. "The plan is for him to fly home in the next three or four days," Dr. Schamasch said. Tarasov, 27, was admitted to hospital on Feb. 7 on the eve of the games with a severe general infection. The cause has not been established, but Dr. Schamasch has dismissed as speculation a French newspaper report last week that the infection might have resulted from blood doping.

U.K. clubs seek unrestricted promotion

LONDON (R) — English Football League clubs are prepared to reduce the new premier league from 22 to 20 clubs in 1995, but want an unrestricted right of promotion. A meeting of the 71 clubs who will be left behind when the top 22 from the first division form the new league in August, voted for a three-up three-down promotion and relegation system between the two leagues for the next two seasons Monday. They agreed a proposal for two-up and four-down at the end of the 1994-95 season when the premier league wants to reduce its elite membership to just 20. But as the power struggle between the Football League and the Football Association (F.A.) over the make-up of the premier league continues, the league also insisted the criteria for promotion should not be restricted by a club's stadium facilities. Football League Assistant Secretary Andy Williamson said: "We cannot allow a situation where clubs are refused promotion to the premier league because their grounds do not have a certain minimum capacity, or a certain amount of seated accommodation."

Tarango advances in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jeff Tarango defeated fellow American Paul Annacone 6-7 (4-7), 6-1, 6-3 in the opening round of the \$1 million U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championship. Annacone, 28, ranked 426th this year as he tries to come back from operations on his left big toe and his right elbow, recovered from 0-3 to take the first set. Tarango went ahead 4-0 in the second set and 3-0 in the third set, and Annacone was unable to catch up, despite serving five aces in the sixth game of the final set. Two French players also advanced Monday to the second round. Arnaud Boetsch beat Ronald Agener of Haiti, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2). Agener had defeated Boetsch in their previous meeting at the Bordeaux Clay Tournament. Rodolphe Gilbert of France scored a 7-5, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4 victory over Patrick Baur of Germany. Rodolphe won the match with a passing shot as Baur charged forward. Baur prolonged the match by winning the second set after Gilbert held match point three times.

Frazier wins at Oklahoma Silms

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma (R) — Former champion and fourth-seeded Amy Frazier beat Kathy Rinaldi 6-1 6-3 in the opening round of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma Tennis Tournament. Frazier, the 1990 champion, took just 57 minutes to beat the former top 10 ranked Rinaldi in an all-American matchup. Eighth seeded Tami Whitlinger of the United States and veteran Peanut Harper also of the United States were other first round winners. Whitlinger beat Heather Ludloff of the United States 6-0 6-4 and Harper beat Wendy Krause of the United States 6-2 6-2.

Krajicek moves into Stuttgart 2nd round

STUTTGART (AP) — Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands defeated Jordi Arrese of Spain Monday to move into the second round of the \$1.04 million Eurocard Classics Tennis Tournament. Krajicek, 20, who eliminated Wimbledon champion Michael Stich in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open last month, overpowered Arrese to take the first-round match 6-3, 6-2. Ranked 27th in the world, Krajicek is likely to face American Jim Courier, ranked No. 1 in the world, in the second round. Courier's first match in the Stuttgart tournament will be against qualifier Diego Nargiso of Italy later in the week.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1992
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Many new ideas and ways of doing things await your attention as the Sun enters Pisces. Acting positively and using much tact achieves many of your intentions with the emphasis on sociability.

and this is the day to look for new ways to eliminate waste or repeating tasks.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look into whatever promises you have made and consider how you can best get them done in practical ways that will please your associates.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a partner of fixed views with whom you require some cooperative effort now so show you want to get along and get results done too.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a partner of fixed views with whom you require some cooperative effort now so show you want to get along and get results done too.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Something of a very sensible nature would greatly please your attachment and being you more romantic happiness and personal well being.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think more deeply just how you want your residence to be in the days ahead, then proceed to make the practical arrangements for such.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into the nitty gritty of your communications with others and you can get their good will and continuing support for future relationship.

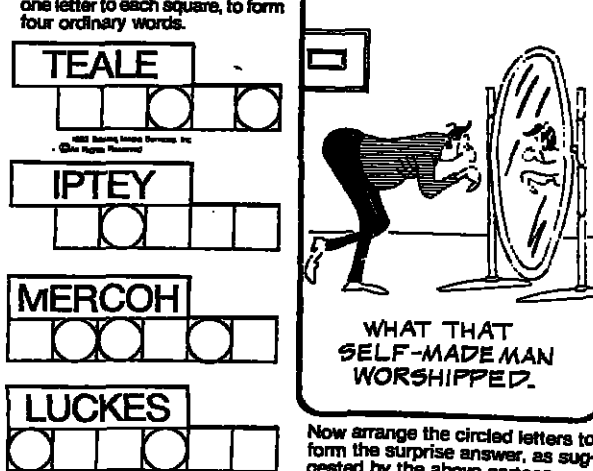
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"What a bargain! Only \$5 a day for the next 50 years!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

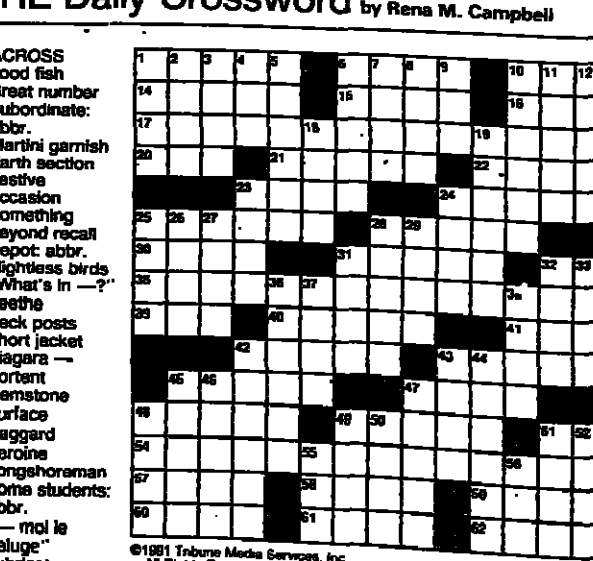


Print answer here: _____

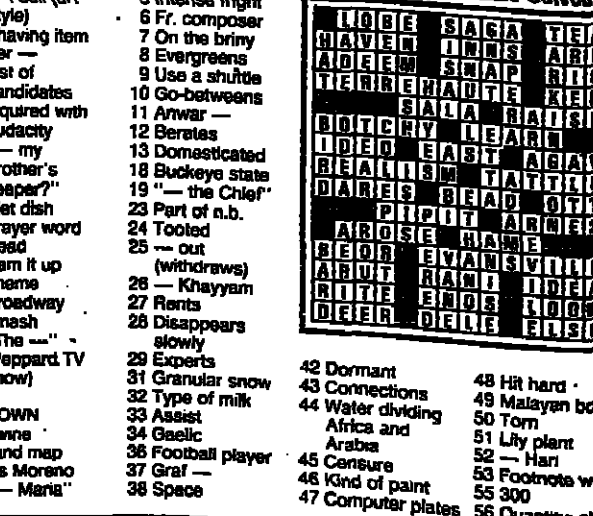
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELEGY, LIMBO, MISUSE, TAMPER. Answer: Could be the good old summertime — 'SUMMER TIME'

THE Daily Crossword by Rena M. Campbell



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

FINESSING, THE HARD WAY

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 5
♥ A 7 3
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 10 5
EAST
♠ 9 8
♥ K Q 10 9 5 2 J 8 4
♦ K 9
♣ A J 10 6 4 2
Void
♠ A Q 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 2 3 Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠. When a contract hinges on a finesse, we have frequently heard players remark: "My 5-year-old child could have made it." That might be true, but the simple finesse can be far more complex than many realize.

The auction was a mixture of modern science and old-fashioned savvy. North's three-diamond cuebid showed a limit raise in hearts or better, and South's six hearts was a fair shot under the circumstances, although it did run a slight risk of missing a grand slam.

West led the king of diamonds, and it was obvious that the fate of the contract turned on holding the losers in clubs to one trick. A successful finesse would accomplish that, but West's overall suggested the king of clubs was offside. South found a nifty way to surmount that hurdle.

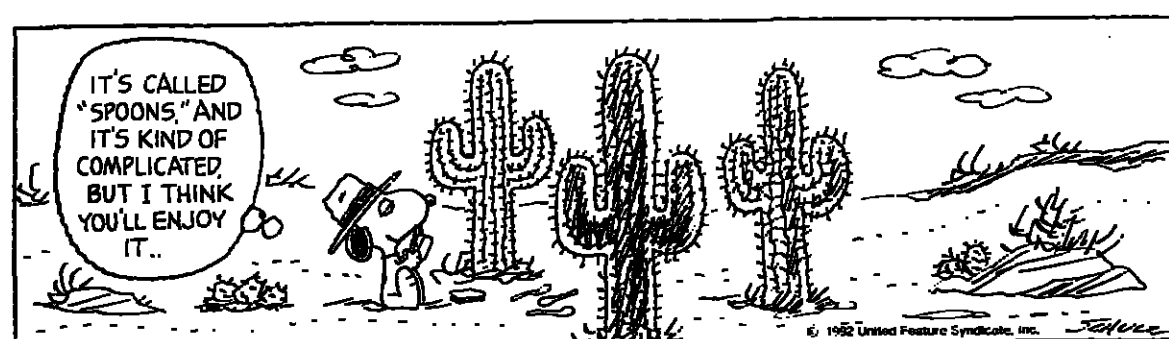
After ruffing the opening lead in hand, declarer crossed to dummy with the queen of trumps and ruffed another diamond. The king of trumps was the entry for another diamond ruff, and then came the key play—declarer cashed the ace of clubs!

The strip was completed by playing off the king of spades, ace of diamonds and ace of spades and then ruffing a spade on the table. Now declarer led a club and, when East declared the jack, it was covered with the queen.

Had East held the king, all would have been well. As the cards lay, West was able to win with monarch, but declarer's extra chance materialized. With no more clubs, West was forced to lead a diamond in spade, if West held one, would have been equally fatal, and declarer ruffed with the board's last trump while discarding the last club from hand, and the slam was home.

If your 5-year-old can play like that, you have a star in the making!

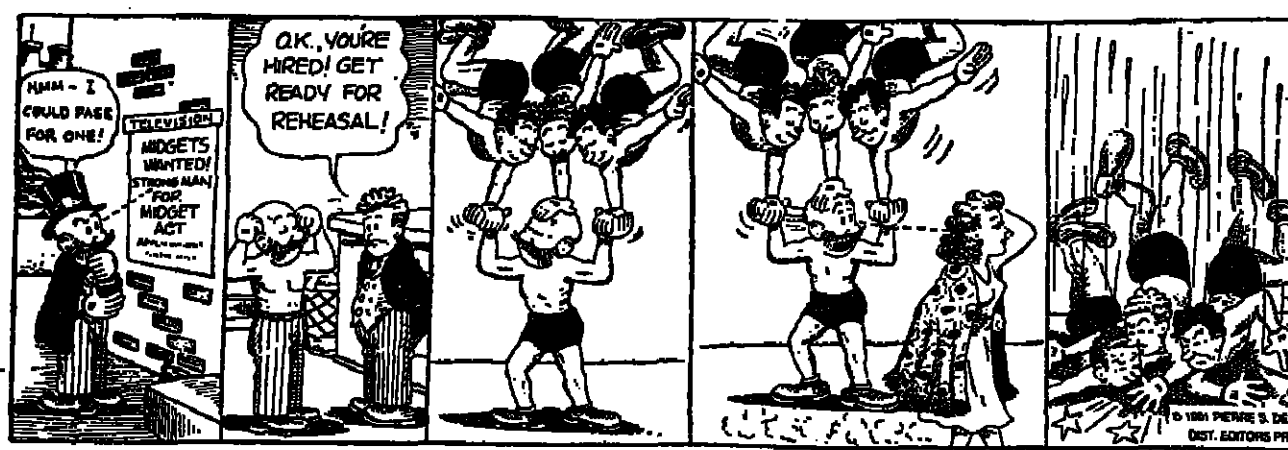
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



U.S., Russia to discuss formation of ABM attack warning system

MOSCOW (AP) — The United States and Russia have agreed to discuss formation of a system to warn against ballistic missile attacks, Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday.

Baker, after meeting for more than two hours with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, also said the two sides had made some progress on further reductions in their long-range nuclear arsenals, although differences remained.

"We are moving closer together, particularly with reference to the question of numbers," Mr. Baker said at a joint news conference with Kozyrev.

The sticking point is what kind of warheads to eliminate, he said. "It's not just a question of numbers. We have to consider the exact mix," he said.

Both sides want cuts that would take them beyond the strategic arms reduction treaty (START) signed by the United States and the Soviet Union last July. But President George Bush has proposed what amounts to a 50 per cent cut — down to about 4,500 warheads for the United States, while President Boris Yeltsin has suggested leaving each side with

2,500 warheads.

It was unclear from the news conference whether the United States has now agreed to go below the 4,500 level.

"The important thing is, we are now talking about significant and substantial reductions below the level called for in START," Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Baker said he did not know what form the final agreement on cuts would take, suggesting it might be an exchange of formal letters between the sides rather than a full-blown treaty.

Mr. Yeltsin told reporters at the Kremlin after meeting Mr. Baker on Monday that "unfortunately, we have some differences." These involve how to count multiple-warhead weapons, including land- and submarine-based missiles, he said.

But, Mr. Yeltsin said, "those differences are minor. We are very close to each other," he did not elaborate.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Kozyrev will resume their discussions March 10 in Brussels on the sidelines of a NATO foreign ministers meeting, a U.S. official

said.

That meeting was also likely to discuss the proposed early warning system.

Mr. Baker said the U.S. allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), as well as any other country willing to act "in a responsible way," would be welcome to participate in the system.

The two men did not elaborate on the type of technology would be used. The United States already fields sophisticated early warning systems of the type that activated the Patriot missile batteries in Saudi Arabia and Israel to shoot down incoming missiles during the Gulf war.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Kozyrev agreed to jetison the cumbersome arms control mechanism used by the United States and the Soviet Union used for over 20 years, which took teams of experts from both sides as long as a decade to agree on weapons cuts.

Instead, Mr. Kozyrev said, discussions would be held at the foreign minister level so a speedy agreement can be worked out before Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin

meet in Washington in July.

Mr. Bush is willing to consider further cuts, but is balking at a Russian demand that each submarine-launched nuclear missile carry only one warhead. The United States has a distinct advantage in the number of sub-launched missiles.

Mr. Baker will report to Mr. Bush on his talks with Kozyrev later this week. He returns to Washington later Tuesday after a trip that took him to six other newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Baker also will bring Mr. Bush a surprise appeal from Mr. Yeltsin for an additional \$600 million in credit guarantees so his country can buy grain from the United States to feed its people.

"I have no doubt in the positive response of the United States," Mr. Yeltsin said with Mr. Baker at his side.

The United States last year provided \$3.75 billion in grain credits, of which \$3.1 billion have been used. The remaining \$675 million will be used by April 1, Mr. Yeltsin said. The additional guarantees will be for the second quarter of 1992, he added.



An Armenian mother (centre) mourns her son killed in the recent clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenians and Azeris.

Armenians, Azeris appeal to world community after 7 killed in Karabakh

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia and Azerbaijan issued rival appeals to the international community Monday as fresh fighting in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh claimed at least seven more lives.

Armenia's parliament appealed to the United Nations Security Council, accusing Azerbaijan of violating human rights and committing genocide against Armenians in the territory, ITAR-TASS News Agency said.

It said Azerbaijan was guilty of "acts against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh which are unprecedented in scale and cruelty" and of using "weapons of mass destruction which are banned under international conventions."

The appeal, which was also sent to Commonwealth member states and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) urged the Security Council to place the issue on its agenda immediately.

Russian Television said the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry urged the world community in a statement to take sanctions against Armenia for violating "the principle of non-violence in relations between states."

Fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, controlled by Azerbaijan but populated mostly by ethnic Armenians, has claimed about 1,000 lives over the past four years.

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, both members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), has escalated sharply since troops of the former Soviet Interior Ministry pulled out late last year.

Commonwealth television quoted an Armenian presidential adviser as saying seven ethnic Armenians were killed and 16 wounded in an Azeri bombardment of the enclave's capital Stepanakert Sunday night.

"Altogether some 300 missiles hit the city... many buildings were badly damaged and there are still places in flames," said Armenia's State News Agency, citing the same casualty figures.

The Azerbaijani agency Azerinform reported that more than 20 Azeri villagers had been killed and more than 15 wounded in recent fighting.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have frequently come close to all-out war over Karabakh and accuse each other of pogroms in the territory.

TASS said a team of five CSCE observers paid a five-hour visit to Nagorno-Karabakh Monday. The expanded 46-member CSCE decided last month to send a fact-finding team — its first involvement in a conflict in the former Soviet Union.

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Ukraine bomber seizure could threaten nuclear agreement

MOSCOW (R) — Ukraine's move to seize 21 bombers of former Soviet nuclear forces has raised fears about the stability of a United Commonwealth Strategic Command.

Ukraine signed an agreement with other Commonwealth states upholding a united command for nuclear forces of the now-defunct Soviet Union.

But Kiev announced Monday it was taking over a fleet of long-range bombers based at Uzin. Acting Ukrainian Chief of Staff Georgy Zhivitsa said Uzin airmen had already sworn on oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

Henry Dadds, of the authoritative Jane's Defence Weekly in London, said the unit is part of the 36th Air Army, ironically once known as the "Moscow Air Army".

Its 21 planes are equipped to fire nuclear cruise missiles and drop nuclear bombs though it is not clear if the weapons are still stored at the base.

Commonwealth Strategic Air Forces Commander Colonel-General Igor Kalugin was expected to fly to Uzin Tuesday for

talks with unit commander Major-General Mikhail Bashkurov. Reports suggest a disagreement between Gen. Bashkurov and the high command.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Gen. Kalugin had sacked Gen. Bashkurov three days ago, but Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk had reinstated him.

The Defence Ministry in Moscow had no early reaction to the unit's seizure, a prospect that could chill Western governments.

Foreign powers, especially Moscow's cold war nuclear rival, the United States, are anxious that clear central control be retained over the massive force.

One "nightmare" has haunted the West since the Soviet Union collapsed last December... a nuclear force dissolving in anarchy.

A Defence Ministry source said the takeover had surprised Moscow. He hoped the issue could be settled by consultations between the supreme command in Moscow and Ukrainian military officials.

"The division is part of Commonwealth strategic forces and should remain such. The Ukraine

signed the agreement and should abide by it," the source said.

Sergei Rogov, defence analyst at the influential Institute of the United States and Canada, said the Ukrainian move had not surprised him, following Kiev's refusal to support any joint conventional force.

The agreement on nuclear forces now seemed in grave doubt.

"I think this was quite a predictable step," he commented. "It seems to me the continuation of an established trend in Ukrainian defence policy."

Ukraine, most powerful former Soviet republic after Russia, declared at a summit of the 11 Commonwealth states Friday that it would not join any combined army of conventional forces. Kiev officials say some 400,000 troops on their territory have already sworn allegiance to Ukraine.

Ukraine's efforts to form its own army by prising units from Commonwealth control, especially from the Black Sea Fleet, have triggered tension between the states that threatens to tear apart the frail community.

Japan opposition ends boycott of budget debate

TOKYO (R) — Japanese opposition parties agreed Tuesday to end their two-week boycott of a parliamentary debate on the 1992/93 budget, a parliamentary spokesman said.

He said the decision followed the agreement by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to summon former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki to testify on the Kyowa political bribery scandal.

The budget debate will resume Wednesday morning.

"The opposition and the LDP agreed to resume the budget debate tomorrow morning," the parliamentary spokesman said.

Mr. Suzuki will appear before parliament as an unsworn witness on Feb. 25 to testify on his role in the scandal, he said.

On the same day, Jun Shiozaki, a former cabinet minister and member of a faction led by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, will also testify before parliament on whether he took money from Kyowa Company, he said.

Kyowa is a bankrupt property developer that bribed LDP legislators Fumio Abe in return for favours while he was regional development minister.

Opposition leaders have boycotted the debate on the 1992/93 budget for two weeks in a bid to force the ruling party to summon its senior members to testify on their role in the Kyowa scandal.

The stand-off has threatened passage of the state budget by the start of the new fiscal year, beginning on April 1, and further damaged the stability of Mr. Miyazawa's government.

The LDP said Monday it would summon Suzuki to parliament as an unsworn witness but later hedged its response after the opposition demanded that the testimony be televised.

On Tuesday, the LDP bowed to opposition demands and said that after all it would allow the testimony to be televised.

Mr. Suzuki, 81, will face questioning on reports that he received as much as 110 million yen (\$865,000) from Kyowa. Mr. Suzuki, a senior member of the Miyazawa faction within the LDP, admitted to prosecutors that he received 10 million yen (\$78,000) from Kyowa but returned it later, newspapers have said.

Ghali recommends deployment of 13,000 peacekeepers in Yugoslavia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has recommended the deployment of more than 13,000 peacekeepers to Yugoslavia, warning that a delay could lead to a breakdown in the country's ceasefire.

The secretary-general sent his request to the 15 Security Council members Monday and the council members were reviewing it, said a U.N. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Dr. Ghali envisioned peacekeepers remaining until a lasting peace could be negotiated and called on the council to give the force a 12-month mandate at the outset, to be renewed if a lasting peace is not quickly reached.

It would be the largest such operation since the U.N. sent 20,000 peacekeepers to the Belgian Congo, now Zaire, in 1960.

The plan calls for basing the peacekeeper's headquarters in Sarajevo, the capital of the Bosnia-Herzegovina, with other offices in Belgrade and Zagreb and a logistical base in the Bosnian city of Banja Luka.

The command "will include military, police and civilian components," said the report, released at the United Nations.

It proposed a "military component" of 12 infantry battalions totalling 10,400 troops, aided by support staff totalling 2,840 members, as well as 100 military observers and an air unit of four planes and 26 helicopters.

The report also proposed the deployment of approximately 530 police personnel, and an unspecified number of civilian administrators drawn from United Nations staff members.

U.N. officials had been saying for months they would not deploy a major peacekeeping contingent until they were certain the ceasefire was holding and that all parties to the conflict would cooperate.

But in his report, Dr. Ghali

said he was concerned that a delay in sending peacekeepers "will lead to a breakdown of the ceasefire and to a new conflagration in Yugoslavia."

In a major breakthrough, a rebel ethnic Serb leader in Croatia said Monday his militia would not oppose deployment of U.N. troops. But the Serb leader, Milan Babic, president of the self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Krajina in western Croatia, warned of possible trouble if his troops are forced to disarm as required by a U.N. peace plan.

The cost of the peacekeeping operation is estimated at \$400 million a year. The U.N. official said the council was also considering ways to fund the operation.

The first peacekeepers could begin arriving within two weeks of a council decision, U.N. officials said last week. Western diplomats said 31 countries probably will contribute troops, police or other personnel.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. submarine 'entered Russian waters'

MOSCOW (R) — A nuclear-powered submarine of the former Soviet Navy was hit by a U.S. submarine which allegedly entered Russian waters, the Interfax News Agency said Tuesday. Navy chiefs said they would protest to Washington about the incident, which occurred off northern Russia last Tuesday. The official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters there was apparently no significant damage or injury to the crew of the U.S. submarine Baton Rouge, which was returning to its home port. The home port was not immediately identified. The official said the Baton Rouge was cruising at periscope-depth when it was hit by the surfacing CIS submarine on Feb. 11. "The Baton Rouge observed the CIS submarine surface and proceed toward its port," the official said.

Socialist not dead, says Gorbachev

PARIS (R) — Socialism is not dead despite the failure of the Soviet system, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in a newspaper column Tuesday. Mr. Gorbachev, who resigned last December when the Soviet Union was replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States, wrote in French daily Liberation that the totalitarian state established by former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin had deformed socialism. "What is dead and buried is the model created by Stalin which was a heresy from the very beginning," Mr. Gorbachev said. "It was a regime that defied democracy, human rights, and the basic needs of human beings, a system that tore up society and betrayed the Socialist ideal. I am convinced the Stalinist model is dead. And I will add, thank God."

British general heads NATO force

BRUSSELS (R) — A British general has been named to take command of NATO's new multinational "rapid reaction" corps that will be a key element of the alliance's smaller, more mobile forces in the post-cold war era. NATO's top commander in Europe, U.S. General John Galvin, told reporters Monday that Lieutenant-General Jeremy MacKenzie, who currently commands a British Corps in Germany, would take over the post later this year. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is planning to cut its forces sharply, replacing massed troops in Central Europe with more flexible units that can be deployed anywhere from the Arctic to the Mediterranean in a few weeks to face new threats.

Australia marks own 'Pearl Harbor'

DARWIN, Australia (R) — It was Australia's "Pearl Harbor," the day 242 Japanese warplanes clouded the skies and rained bombs on this tropical Australian city. The memory of that day, when more than double the number of bombs fell on the city than in the attack on Hawaii, is so etched in the nation's consciousness that Japanese officials have pointedly not been invited to Wednesday's 50th anniversary. "It'd be like rubbing salt into an old wound," said Bill Hillman, 73, one of the thousands of Australian and allied veterans who are returning to Darwin for the anniversary. "I've met quite a few Japanese since and I have no hard feelings. It's the Australian POWs (prisoners of war) — they can't forgive the atrocities, what they went through. "I can forgive, but I can never forget." Darwin was unprepared for an attack on that fine sunny day, despite the devastating Japanese strike against Pearl Harbor six weeks before, the fall of Singapore days earlier and intelligence reports indicating a Japanese push south. The planes that hit Darwin were veterans of the Hawaii attack.

S. Korean premier starts visits to North

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's prime minister arrived Tuesday for talks in North Korea, hailing a new era of peace and prosperity but urging the Stalinist state to back its pledges renouncing nuclear weapons with deeds.

Pyeongongyang said it would use the sixth round of premiers' talks to press Seoul to release political prisoners and send American troops home.

On Wednesday, Chung Won-Shik and his northern counterpart Yon Hyong-Muk will exchange ratifications of the unprecedented non-aggression and nuclear agreements reached last December between the two sides, technically at war for the past four decades.

"Tomorrow, we shall witness an exciting event — the coming into force of two historic accords," Mr. Chung said in a banquet speech released in Seoul.

"We have finally worked out a framework for building mutual prosperity, durable peace and a single national community. Distrust, antagonism and confrontation between us now belong to the past," Mr. Chung said.

"It should be remembered, however, that written pledges alone will never bring peace or unification."

Mr. Chung and his 89-member entourage were driven across the border at Panmunjom and travelled by train from nearby Kaesong to Pyongyang.

A South Korean pool report said the Southern delegation, including 50 reporters, received a cool welcome at Pyongyang station, with no welcoming officials or banners.

In a statement released before departure, a spokesman for Mr. Chung said the meeting would provide "a decisive opportunity to test the true intent of the North with respect to the issue of their development of nuclear arms — an issue that has emerged as a focus of domestic and international attention."

Raped girl's pregnancy sparks Irish abortion morality row

DUBLIN (R) — A 14-year-old Irish girl, pregnant by a rapist, is trapped in a legal wrangle over Catholic Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion.

Political uproar and a major morality row surround a court's refusal to let the child have an abortion in Britain.

The schoolgirl, contemplating suicide after being raped by the father of her best friend, was reported Tuesday to have told a psychologist: "It is better to end it now than in nine months' time."

Abortion is illegal in Ireland so she sought one in Britain. But she was banned by the Dublin High Court from having the operation, triggering controversy in this conservative and Roman Catholic country.

"This is a tragedy that was just waiting to happen," said one opposition deputy reflecting on a bitterly divisive 1983 referendum which produced a constitutional amendment to protect the rights of the unborn child.

Monday's high court decision provoked political debate with

opposition deputies calling for the resignation of Attorney General Harry Whelehan and new Prime Minister Albert Reynolds under immense pressure to liberalise the constitution.

The Catholic Church is still a major influence in Ireland where divorce is also illegal and you have to be 18 years old to buy a condom in a chemist shop.

After the convent-educated girl was raped, her parents decided to arrange an abortion in Britain like at least 4,000 Irish women do every year.

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Bush loses to unknown in first New Hampshire vote

DIXVILLE NOTCH, New Hampshire (Agencies) — The first votes in the initial U.S. presidential primary election were cast after midnight Tuesday in New Hampshire and President George Bush lost to an obscure Libertarian Party candidate.

Voters in the northern New Hampshire hamlet of Dixville Notch, with a total population of 39, traditionally cast the first ballots in the influential first-in-the-U.S. presidential primary.

Republicans in the tiny town gave Mr. Bush nine votes against 11 for Libertarian Andre Marrou. Three votes went to Mr. Bush's right-wing challenger Pat Buchanan and three write-in votes to consumer activist Ralph Nader.

In the Democratic Party balloting, Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton received three votes to two for former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas. The other

three major Democrats in the race did not get a vote.

The town has 31 registered voters.

New Hampshire voted Tuesday in a leadoff primary that serves as the first verdict on Mr. Bush's presidency and the opening cut in a five-man Democratic race thrown into confusion by Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton's troubles.

Mr. Bush's challenge in the state that saved him four years ago is to weather the pugnacious conservative Buchanan, who claimed symbolic victory before the polls even opened and promised to continue regardless of Tuesday's results.

For the Democrats, New Hampshire voters were ordering a lineup that has seen two designated front-runners stumble and a late surge by former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas. New Hampshire's results likely

will determine whether talk of late Democratic entries stops at just talk.

For both parties, recession-slashed New Hampshire was a testing ground of economic themes sure to dominate the 1992 campaign.

With Mr. Tsongas on the democratic ballot were Mr. Clinton, Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa and Sen. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska and former California Gov. Jerry Brown. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo was the subject of a write-in effort.

Polls were open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (1000 GMT Tuesday) to 0100 GMT Wednesday, with about half the state's electorate expected to participate.

With only 23 Republican and 18 Democratic convention delegates at stake, little seemed to justify the months spent meeting voters face to face, or the adver-

tising blitz.

But since the modern primary began in New Hampshire in 1952, no president got his job without first winning this primary.

Mr. Bush led substantially in Republican polling, but even his advisers worried Mr. Buchanan might embarrass the president.

Mr. Buchanan has enough money to carry on, but conservative New Hampshire was his best place to fire a warning shot. In the dozen Republican contests between March 3 and 10, eight awarded all delegates to the winner.

In the biggest trophy of the others, Tennessee, Mr. Buchanan has but three delegates running with 45 at stake.

Mr. Tsongas entered the day leading the polls and scoffing at being dubbed a regional candidate whose tough economic talk will fail him elsewhere.

COLUMN

Hearing ends in suicide doctor's case

ROCHESTER HILLS, Michigan (AP) — A judge dealt three blows to the prosecution and one to the defence Monday as he scheduled a Feb. 28 decision on whether Dr. Jack Kevorkian will stand trial for two assisted suicides. Dr. Kevorkian was indicted after two women killed themselves in a remote cabin on Oct. 23 using suicide devices he invented. His lawyers portrayed him during the three-day hearing as an angel of mercy who helped the women escape terrible pain. Prosecutors say neither of the women was terminally ill. One of the women, Marjorie Wanz, was mentally ill and should have gotten treatment. Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Larry Sanding argued, Wanz, 58, of sodas died from an injection of potassium chloride. Sherry Miller, 43, of Roseville died from inhaling carbon monoxide. District Judge James F. Sheehy will decide on Feb. 28 whether the 63-year-old retired pathologist should be charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder or manslaughter, or whether the charge should be dismissed completely. Judge Sheehy didn't directly address the key question in the case: whether assisted suicide is murder.

Elderly Romeo throws money into flowerbeds

PORTSMOUTH, England (R) — A retired sailor tossed handfuls of valuable gold and silver coins into the gardens of attractive women near his home in this southern England town, police said. The 50-year-old widower was spotted in the act, but refused to own up to his philandering when questioned by police, who said up to \$40,000 (\$70,000) worth of sovereigns and commemorative silver coins were involved. "He is a lovely old gentleman, who for some reason has decided to get rid of his money," although he won't admit it. But he did tell police he has given coins away in the past, a police spokesman said. Some of the bemused householders handed over the coins to police, but after a five-month inquiry detectives have decided the beneficiaries may have their windfalls back. One family found coins worth £10,000 (\$35,000) in a flower bed.

'Married couples' outline singles

SYDNEY (R) — Married people are more likely to live longer than those who are single, according to a study by the Australian National University. The seven-year study showed that the survival and health of the spouse was one of the most important factors affecting the longevity of older people. "Older people obtain most of their support from family members, especially their spouses, and relatively few go into nursing homes," research team leader Dr. John McCallum told Reuters. "The absence of social support is argued to be a big health risk factor," Dr. McCallum said. He said married couples received practical and emotional support from each other. If, for example, an accident occurred in a married couple's home then the partner would be able to help. A single person would not have that kind of support. Overall, widowed and older people who were never married were much more likely to die over the seven-year period than the married people, according to the survey.

Despite recession, Australians are a happy lot

SYDNEY (R) — Despite being in the grip of the worst recession since World War II and record unemployment, most Australians believe life down under is pretty good. On a scale of one to 10, most Australians rate life at 6.7, compared with 6.9 two years ago, according to a recent poll published in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper. An old Australian saying goes: "She'll be right, mate." It means don't worry, things will turn out all right in the end. Most Australians whose average annual income is \$28,000 Australian (\$21,000) would appear to think just that. The survey found that even though 10.3 per cent of the workforce is jobless, Australians believe things will get better and their lives in five years time will rate 7.87. Women, who slightly outnumber men in Australia's 17 million population, were generally more satisfied with life than men.